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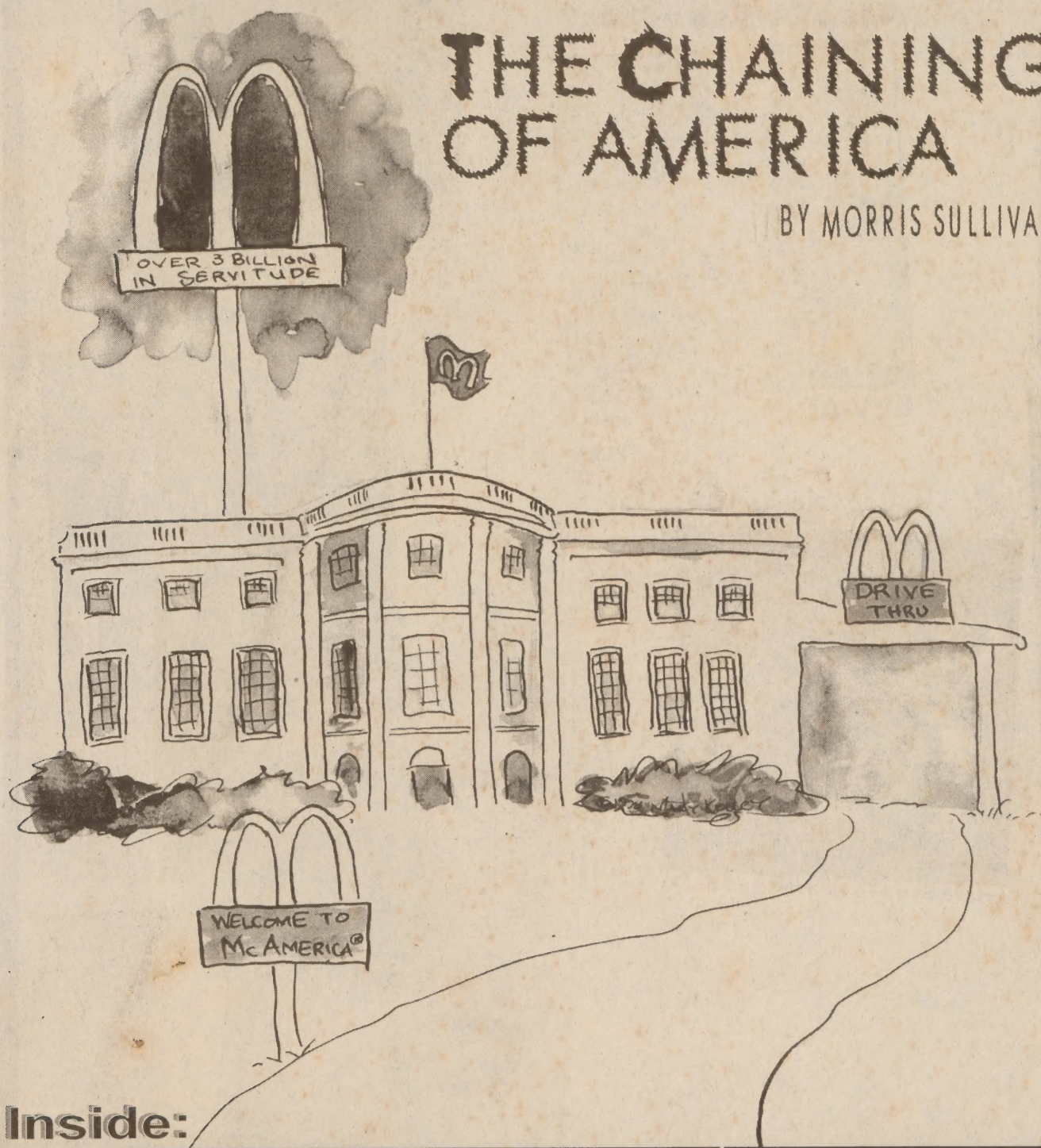
April/May '99

press

#20 - Free

THE CHAINING OF AMERICA

BY MORRIS SULLIVAN

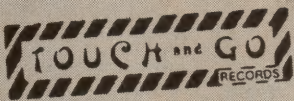


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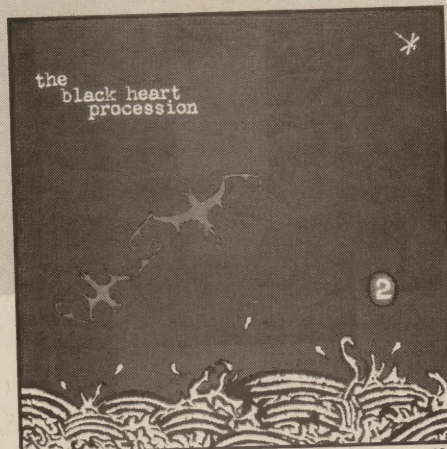
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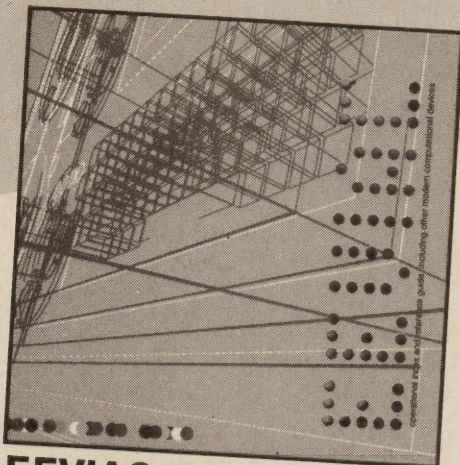
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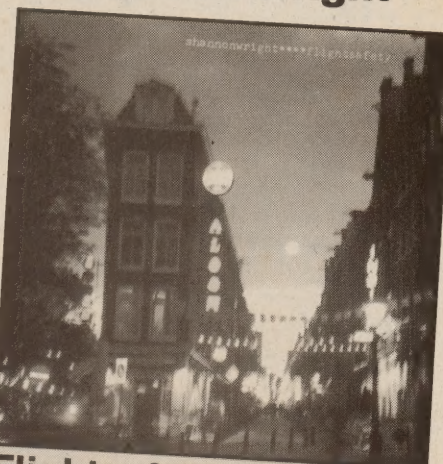
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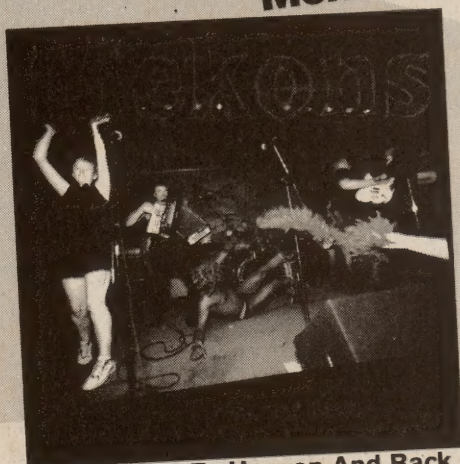
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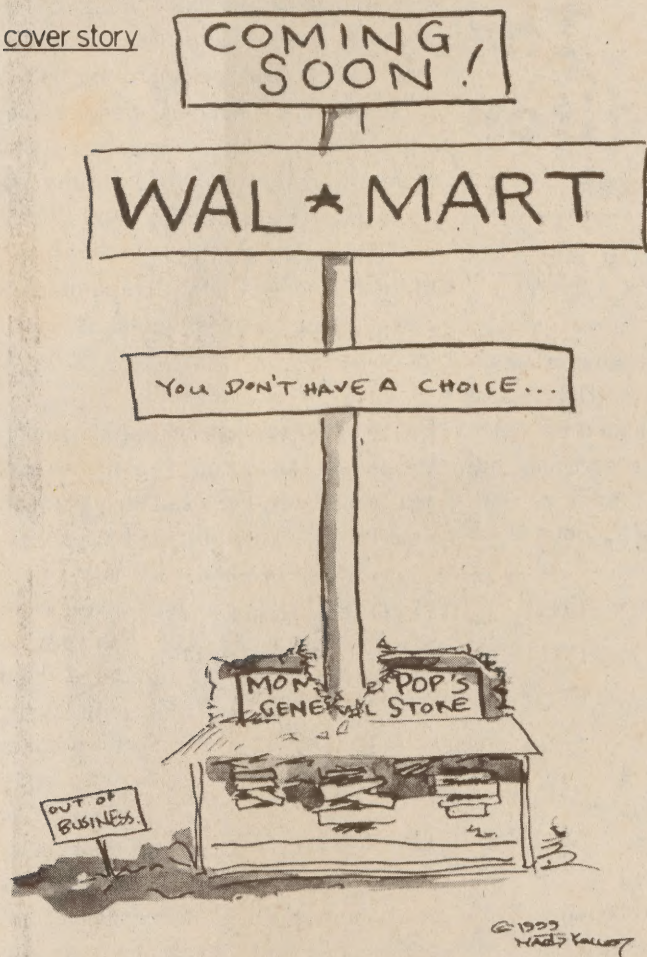
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things within

IMPACT PRESS • ISSUE 20 • APRIL/MAY '99

cover story



The Chaining of America

by Morris Sullivan

Whether it's the lack of respect for the customer, poor selection or absent employee loyalty, chain stores are destroying American business - for the customer, the prospective employee and the small business trying to survive. • PAGE 22

"As long as man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower beings, he will never know health or peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seeds of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love"

--Pythagorus

"The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law."

--Aristotle

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QUOTES:

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IMPACT press is a bi-monthly publication and is a registered trademark of Loudmouth Productions, Inc., a nonprofit organization based out of Orlando, FL. **IMPACT** publishes 10,000 issues bi-monthly. **ORDERING INFO:** Back issues are available for \$2.00 or four stamps to the address above. And now the boring stuff: The ideas expressed in **IMPACT press** are not necessarily those of the staff or publishers of **IMPACT press** or Loudmouth Productions, nor should they reflect on anyone other than that specific writer.

Fun fact of the Issue: The abacus was not invented in China. It originated in Egypt in 2000 BC, almost a millennium before it reached the Orient.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education." - Thomas Jefferson



From The Editor

Craig Mazer

**"OH, SAY, CAN YOU SEE, BY
THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT..."**

So begins one of the many ways Americans have been brainwashed into a false sense of nationalism (defined as "devotion to the interests of a particular nation"). Factor in the "Pledge of Allegiance" every morning of school and the extreme protections on the American flag and I think you're getting the idea.

There is nothing wrong with being lucky to be an American. We live in a country that protects us from "intruders" unconditionally. We are afforded

freedoms that many other countries don't have. We cannot forget that, although we may be the most free, we are not totally free. Police constantly overstep their boundaries. Drug use (a victimless crime) is still illegal. Cities often place curfews upon young people despite not really accomplishing anything or being needed in the first place.

Our nationalism is much like religion. From a young age we are taught to "worship" the flag and respect our country — much like children are brought into Christianity or Judaism. We aren't really told why we should do this, except that it is the "right" thing to do.

I recently tested my own brainwashing

when I attended a sporting event. The "Star Spangled Banner" began and I stayed seated. The entire arena rose to their feet, some placing their hand across their heart, others singing along. I felt uncomfortable — nervous even — sitting during this "display of respect." I was mostly worried that those around me could become aggressively angry. Some patriots would fight against "disrespect" of the US in this form. Regardless, I stayed seated and felt proud of myself for doing so.

Maybe I was making a political statement. Maybe I was just trying to deprogram myself. Either way, I realized that, although America may have afforded my ances-

tors an escape from persecution and an opportunity for a better life, I see the evils of the country that claims

**Our nationalism is
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spect our country.**

to be the best. I see the capitalistic unbalance of a nation that allows those with money to have and those without to suffer.

If you choose to be proud of America and display it, whether by flag-waving or Pledge reciting, make sure you think about what you're proud of. Be proud that you live in a country that affords you so many freedoms, but don't let that blind you to the extreme need for changes in the way America works. Before you stand up for the "Star Spangled Banner," think about why. And if you stand up, do it to say, "This country is great and I will fight to make it better — not through bloodshed, but through education, knowledge and an outspoken voice."

Speak Your Mind. . .

Please proof your letters. *IMPACT* will do the best to decipher them. However, we appreciate your effort to avoid us having to do extra work. Thanks!

Editor:

I've been reading *IMPACT* on and off for quite a while now and I was excited to read this issue with the cover article "Population Control" (Morris Sullivan, Issue #19). But after reading the article I was quite disturbed with the tone of "solutions" to take for the problem of overpopulation.

Firstly, the paragraph which states that "traffic congestion can be eased by building new roads." And also that "in Hong Kong the harbor has been filled in for the construction of housing, airports, and hotels." This type of ideology excuses overpopulation as something which our governments need to deal with by technological advances which actually does not deal with the problem but simply says like the last sentence of the article states "lets hope we can forestall that as long as we can." But wider and bigger roads are not a solution to congested highways, it's an incentive to drive more and in luxury. More efficient bus, and in larger cities, train transportation will help ease overcrowding and also diminish pollution not to mention empower community and communication and reduce travel time and health problems due to automobile accidents and pollution.

The ideas expressed in this article would seem to suggest that colonizing Mars would be a great solution to Earth over-population but the fact is that like it said in the article, "the hanging rooms (which were built outside the windows of overcrowded homes in Hong Kong to allow a couple extra square feet) fell and killed their occupants and some very unfortunate pedestrians."

Like it said in "From the Editor" (Craig Mazer, Issue #19), "adoption agencies wonder what to do with the surplus of wonderful kids waiting for a loving home" and that "another option is to abstain from having children."

But I do have to oppose population control and feel strongly that people must take the responsibility for themselves instead of obeying even a law that would greatly improve the situation of population growth. I feel strongly that to impose another law against the free will of human choice and consequence will only further reduce the consciousness and responsibility of humans to that of a deaf, dumb, and blind species which pedals harder and harder off the cliff of existence.

—Rob

Editor:

I agree (re: "Imprisoning the Masses" Issue #19), I live in Florida and there are becoming 3 types of people, the law, the correction guards, and inmates. That is sad about the number of drug convictions. Also the biggest, problem is there is no redeeming yourself in Florida. There is no restitution, just to the state, which is called prison.

hippiejohn

Editor,

I read with great interest your (Sean Helton) last installment of your column ("Your World", Issue #19), and thought you were pretty much on target. In your own sarcastic way, you've highlighted some of the more fucked-up aspects of mainstream American society. In fact, I thought those articles were so good, I almost feel like apologizing for flaming you after that McDonald's article. Almost.

Keep it up,
Steve M.

Dear Editor:

I picked up a copy of *IMPACT* press in downtown Washington, DC the other day and I was really impressed with the quality of writing, and especially the cover article on population control (Issue #19, "Population Control: How Many Are Too Many" by Morris Sullivan).

As an 18-year old female, who has already decided against ever having children of my own, I get so irritated by people who say, "Oh, you'll change your mind," or "we'll see..." Most people don't take the issue seriously at all.

Unfortunately, most of

the people who make this choice are the educated people (not to be an arrogant ass) who would be more likely to raise productive, educated children in turn. But across America, there's trailer-trash and unprepared people who don't ponder the significance of reproduction other than in terms of their own lives.

Hopefully, if my "maternal instincts" do kick in, I will be ready to take the extra challenge of taking on an adoption. It's important for people considering adoption to look past their neighborhood to organizations like the Korean Adoption Project (check out: <http://www.adoptkorea.com/> for more info). I have seen many kids grow up healthy and well adjusted who have been adopted into American families from Korea. Many of them go to Korea when they turn 18 to meet the birth families that were financially unable to raise them.

So, I've gotten off on a tangent...I really like the zine. Ten times the circulation of my zine. I know you must work your booty off. Keep up the good work.

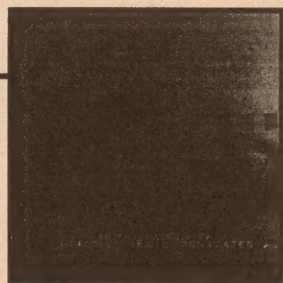
Sincerely -- Kara Harris



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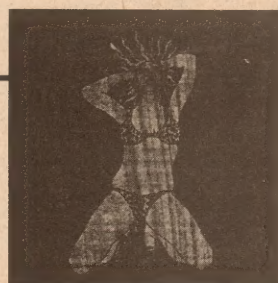
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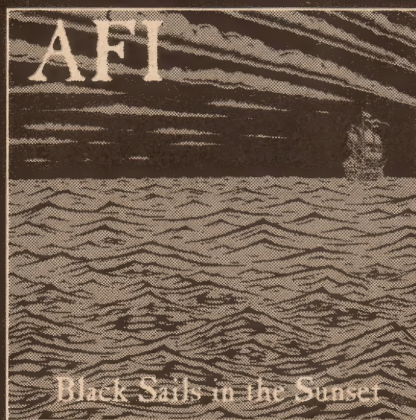


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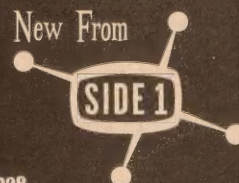
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Notes from the Cultural Wasteland

by morris sullivan
morris sullivan.



cat|a-lyst (n) 1. Any substance serving as the agent in catalysis. 2. A person or thing acting as the stimulus in bringing about a happening or result. (Webster's)

It's funny, the things that stay with you. Sometimes you wonder why you remember specific things a long time after they've happened. My recollection of a trip to Atlanta, for instance, seems to boil down to a really bad peach daiquiri I had in a revolving bar on the top of the Peachtree Plaza and a really good mint julep I had at Pittypat's Porch.

I have a theory that you keep the things with you that helped shape your future. I have a box I've carried around for 30 years. In it, there are clippings from magazines, a few old rock and roll posters, and things like that.

There's also a nearly-complete set of "The Catalyst."

"The Catalyst" was the underground newspaper published by a bunch of hippie students

at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. It was the first example of alternative media I ever saw. It has a hand-drawn, psychedelic-looking logo, showing an eye floating amid stars and clouds.

The text was all type-written—on a typewriter with a gloppy fabric ribbon. The artwork is all handmade, except for the cartoons and comic strips which were obviously chopped out of other publications, like "National Lampoon" and "Zap" comics. (I wonder if they paid royalties to Gilbert Shelton for using his "Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers" strips? Probably not.)

The whole thing was obviously cut-and-paste assembled—as in cut with scissors and pasted with rubber cement. That was state-of-the-art desktop publishing back then. In spite of the primitive layout technology, it was all pretty creative. The front cover of the Christmas, 1969 issue, for instance, featured a collage of images from the year. There's a starving Bengali child at the center, surrounded by images of dead bodies piled up in My Lai, the backs of American soldiers marching through the Vietnam jungle, and the tear-streaked face of an American college student weeping over

the fallen body of her antiwar-demonstrating boyfriend.

The content is pretty inflammatory, too. There's an editorial about the Zapruder film, a story about student activism on campus, a story about Lubbock undercover cops filming student activists on campus, a story about My Lai, an opinion piece urging the legalization of abortion, four pages of bad poetry, an opinion piece urging the end of apartheid, more stories about student activism in Paris and Montreal, a review of "The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test," a parody of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" which attacks the college board of regents for being rich, fat, and clueless—to be sung by student activists—reviews of the Rolling Stones' "Through the Past Darkly" and Jefferson Airplane's "Volunteers," and two more stories about student activism.

There are still plenty of young people who strive to dig out the truth.

It's just that facing the consequences of getting drafted and sent

off to get shot at in a foreign jungle seems pretty urgent compared

to facing the consequences of global warming and ozone depletion.

You're probably thinking I'm getting ready to go off on one of those "the youth of today are so lackadaisical/no one's an activist any more" tirades. I'm not. The youth of today are

fine. And the truth be told, Lubbock, Texas wasn't exactly a hotbed of political subversion. It just had a pretty good underground paper.

There are still plenty of young people who strive to dig out the truth. It's just that facing the consequences of getting drafted and sent off to get shot at in a foreign jungle seems pretty urgent compared to facing the consequences of global warming and ozone depletion.

In 1969, the enemies were a lot easier to recognize. Probably, watching the TV news at dinner and seeing kids about your own age bleeding and getting zipped up into body bags was a more catalyzing event than reading the underground paper.

Who's your enemy now? The military-industrial complex? Or the mechanic who puts black market freon in your car's air conditioner? An HIV virus? Burger King?

It's pretty easy to get incited to violence by photos of starving chil-

(ACTIVIST, continued on page 35).

Political Backyards

**"A devil is still a devil whether he wears a bed sheet or a Brooks Brothers suit."
-- Malcolm X**

As conservatives rant and rave about the "evils" of liberalism, I often wonder if they ever take a look at the evils in their own political backyard. Do they ever take a look at the fascism among their own members? Do they ever take a look at the homophobia among their supporters, namely the Christian Right?

The reason I bring this up is because, as of recent, two Republicans have been linked to a racist organization called the Council of Conservative Citizens. Rep. Bob Barr, R-GA, gave a speech to this group back in June 1998. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi has had links to this organization for quite some time.

The Council of Conservative Citizens started around the mid-1980s. Its ideology is to work on issues concerning conservatives, issues like affirmative action and immigration, issues they are against. They are also against interracial marriage, a union they consider as genocide to the white race.

CCC is a direct descendant of the Citizens Councils of America, a racist and anti-Semitic organization formed during the Civil Rights Movement. This group of middle class whites were against integration and wanted to preserve the South's pure, Christian heritage, meaning an ongoing segregated "utopia" with no Jews. They were also allies of the Ku Klux Klan.

The CCC deny they are the same group from the 50s and 60s. But one look at their web-site (<http://www.cofcc.org/index.htm>) would suggest that they are. Not only would a person see views about "importing more immigrants from Europe", one would also see views about Martin Luther King, Jr. being a "womanizer", a "communist" and a "plagiarist".

Last but not least (and I don't see how I was surprised), a person would also see their obsession with brotherman, OJ Simpson. Believe me, OJ is all over this site.

Check out this quote from Phylliss Schlafly: "They (liberals) all knew that Clinton, like OJ, was guilty."

Speaking of OJ, it was his lawyer, Alan Dershowitz, who brought it to light about Bob Barr's connections with CCC. This was during President Clinton's Impeachment trial with Bob Barr being on the House Judiciary Committee.

On Dec. 1, 1998, Dershowitz, legal writer Jeffrey Rosen, Judge Leon Higginbotham and law professor Steven Schwartzberg testified in a Clinton Impeachment hearing. All were anti-impeachment.

Then, Bob Barr said the testimonies of these four men were

irrelevant to "real America." Dershowitz said the words "real America" were code words for anti-Semitism and racism because Barr was trying to discredit the pro-Clinton views of one black judge and three Jewish lawyers.

Afterwards on Dec. 4, Dershowitz

wrote a letter to Chairman Henry Hyde about Barr's connections with the Council of Conservative Citizens.

Barr wouldn't answer to this at first. Then, he admits doing a speech for them but says he is not a part of the organization. The Council of Conservative Citizens says the same thing. Barr, also says he knew nothing of CCC's racist views before he spoke before an audience of them.

If Bob Barr isn't involved with the organization, Trent Lott definitely is. Lott contributes a column to CCC's newspaper, Citizen Informer. Lott is also known to have said that the spirit of Confederate President Jefferson Davis lived in the 1984 Republican Party.

For the record, it is also worth mentioning that Former Klan Member David Duke spoke before the Council of Conservative Citizens.

Ever since Reagan, I have always had a suspicion that bigots and fascist types were in the GOP.

Ever since Reagan, I have always had a suspicion that bigots and fascist types were in the GOP. I never knew how severe the situation was. I don't believe all Republicans are bigots. I also don't believe that all white Democrats love black folks. Still, I believe the Republican ideology caters to bigots the most.

One of the best ways to see the uncensored mindset of some Republicans is to visit online chatrooms. If a person were to visit any chatroom involving politics, there they would see what some Republicans really believe about minorities and homosexuals.

In political chats, ten minutes does not pass by without some

mind power



patrick scott barnes.

(REPUBLICAN, continued on page 44)

your world

the News revisited

by Sean Helton

gests Christ was a failure. Whatever the reason, Falwell is desperately clawing for media attention and a saving grace.

At first I found his accusation toward Mr. Winky laughable from a consumer standpoint. Is Falwell so out of it he doesn't know purple sells? Barney? Raisin Bran? Dino? Take a stroll down the aisles of a toy store, Jerry. Kids see purple and they must have it. It's called marketing. Perhaps if you knew a little more about it your university wouldn't be in shambles and your Moral Majority would still be in existence.

Then I thought of it from a real-life perspective. Homosexuals exist, Jerry. They're real. Maybe Tinky-Winky is some sort of role model. So what? You were sheltered as a child and probably didn't know about gays until about a year ago, but maybe a role model would combat the hate spread by your fellow Bible thumpers. Maybe if kids were raised to be more understanding and tolerable of other people they'd be less likely to beat them and leave them for dead, tied to fenceposts.



Tinky-Winky

Remember that story, Jerry? Probably made you smile, huh? How about spending your time working

on your own flock? Why do pastors continue to molest children? Why do church leaders go on stealing from their congregations? Why are you wasting your time on children's shows? Besides, you've missed the biggest gay-promoting kids' show of all time: Davey and Goliath. You may *claim* it was a religious Claymation show, but I don't think many of us were fooled. That was bestiality at its finest. Davey? How gay was he?! Tall, slender, very neat...that's 110% gay! By the way, Jerry, the BBC just ordered an additional 105 Teletubbies episodes, bringing the total episode count to...you're gonna die when you hear this...365! That means one episode of Mr. Winky and his gay antics every single day, all year long!

Almost as stupid as Mr. Falwell are Linda and Glen Padilla of Eustis, Florida. Back in late February the Padillas were walking through their local Wal-Mart Supercenter when something startled them so badly that Mrs. Padilla "almost passed out and wanted to scream." They were at the meat counter, looking at all the raw animal flesh when there, amongst the other perfectly normal meats, was a whole pig's head wrapped in cellophane! This offended the couple so much that they stormed up to the manager and demanded it be removed from the otherwise



Idiot n. – 1. A mentally deficient person with intelligence in the lowest measurable range, being unable to guard against common dangers and incapable of learning connected speech. 2. A foolish or stupid person. 3. Jerry Falwell.

I couldn't believe it myself, but there it was, right there on page 343 of my American Heritage Dictionary (office edition). Jerry Falwell is, by definition, an idiot. For those of you who missed it, Falwell made the revelation of the decade when he pronounced Tinky-Winky (the purple Teletubby) gay. In the February edition of his *National Liberty Journal*, Falwell made the following statement about Mr. Winky: "He is purple – the gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle – the gay-pride symbol."

All I can say is thank God (no pun intended) for Falwell! It's about time someone cried foul about those fag Teletubbies. And how about outing Bugs Bunny while you're at it? That carrot? Please, if that's not a phallic symbol, I don't know what is. Not only that, but he obviously has an oral fixation; he always has it in his mouth. What about "Woody" from the movie *Toy Story*? The makers of that movie no doubt named him that so when little boys got their Woody doll for Christmas they'd say, "Look at my Woody!"



Jerry Falwell

the anti-Christ which is purported (by Falwell) to be living among us. Falwell doesn't know who it is, but he *does* know it's a Jewish male. Maybe he's still reeling from having been caught accepting \$3.5 million from Sun Myung Moon, whose own theology sug-

Folks, I think Falwell has finally lost it. I can't blame the guy – everything he touches turns to \$#!*. The Moral Majority? Bust. Liberty University? Tens of millions of dollars in debt. Why, it's even been reported that a member of his own family, his aunt's son is...hold on to your seats...GAY! Does that make him a sinner by association? I guess he's exhausted from trying to find

beautiful setting. Mr. Padilla told the Orlando Sentinel that Wal-Mart "shouldn't be grossing out their customers like that." Padilla further claimed, "I watch horror films and that kind of thing, but when I saw that pig's head, it grossed me out. I wanted to puke."

Wal-Mart removed the pig head and filled the void with the much less offensive neck bones of other pigs. The Padillas, who claim to refrain from pork, are obviously unaware that pig head is a bit of a delicacy in the Southern US and Eastern Europe. The irony here is incredible, isn't it? I'm not a vegetarian but I do find it quite unnerving to walk the meat aisle. It's entirely morbid but I'm so hooked on a good steak I can't stop. (And I don't want any vegan hate mail printed on recycled paper with organic ink, so don't bother.) What's even more ironic is Mr. Padilla is probably an avid hunter. I mean there are only two things to do in Eustis: shopping at Wal-Mart and hunting. What about the seafood case? There are whole fish in there! Whole shrimp! Live lobsters! This is acceptable? Oh, right, this is Eustis, they don't have seafood there, only stuff you can plug with a .12 gauge. I think I'll call the Eustis Wal-Mart and order me a pig's head. For delivery, of course.



Richard Ashby

More idiotic, but not as surprising as either of these cases, was the acquittal of Captain Richard Ashby, whose jet flew into an Italian gondola cable, killing 20 people more than a year ago. This is absolutely inexcusable and is nothing more than the military protecting its own. Relations between the US and Italy have been strained since the accident and I would only hope this continues until real justice is served.

Ashby's defense attorney said a number of problems confronted his client in the seconds before his jet hit the cable – the spotty altitude gauge didn't warn him he was too low and the ground rose 150 feet during the last seconds before the mishap. Although that looks good on paper, the truth is that people living in the Alpine ski area had long complained about low-flying jets from Ashby's base. Ashby was flying over 100mph in excess of the speed limit for that area and was some 1,600 feet *lower* than the altitude restriction for the area. Even if there was a sudden 150-foot rise, it doesn't begin to explain why he was flying that low and at those speeds. Ashby said he was unaware of the altitude restriction (isn't that called negligence?) and an optical illusion made him believe he was higher than he really was. I don't know what kind of illusion Ashby saw, but to misjudge his altitude by 1,600 feet he must have been smoking some kick-ass dope. Had I known the Marines offered such perks, I would have signed up. "The few, the proud, the wasted."

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Urban Legends of the Left and Right

By Steve Vivian

"George Orwell once remarked that political thought, especially on the left, is a sort of masturbation fantasy in which the world of fact hardly matters. That's true, unfortunately, and it's part of the reason that our society lacks a genuine, responsible, serious left-wing movement."

—Noam Chomsky

Noam Chomsky and George Orwell are correct. Contemporary liberalism makes a virtue of free-flights into a fantasy world scrubbed clean of hard reality: a misty Oz where liberalism avoids living with its own mistakes. Such self-satisfying solipsism is inevitable for an ideology that prizes deeply subjective feelings ("sensitivity", "consciousness-raising" etc.) over mundane fact and straight analysis.

The flight into fantasy grows embarrassingly obvious when liberals try their hand at statistical analysis (at least they offer statisticians—not to mention logicians—a hearty laugh before lunch). One classic example of liberal stupefaction: the so-called "test gap" between white and minority students. White students, on average, score higher on various standardized tests (ACT, SAT, etc.) than black and Hispanic students. Therefore, according to liberal logic, the test scores demonstrate "bias" against black and Hispanic students, and the bias in favor of white students. Another example, so goes the claim, of "institutional racism".

There's a problem with this quasi-conspiracy theory: it can't explain why Asian-American students (again, on average) outperform white students on the same tests. Given the facts of higher Asian-American performance, white students can argue that standardized tests demonstrate bias against whites, and bias in favor of Asian American students. Indeed, the awkward truth of test scores provokes anguish and hostility among the liberal orthodoxy. As a University of California bureaucrat complained: if Berkeley's racial preferences system was struck down, Berkeley would be "90 percent Chinese and 10 percent White." What an *insensitive* remark!

Another liberal urban legend: marriage is a "fading" or "outdated" social institution. For example, Barbara Ehrenreich (among many others) claims that half of all marriages end in divorce. The logical stumble: The marriages counted occurred within a single year, but the divorces were from marriages that occurred over *decades*, not a single year. With identical logic, we can prove that half the population died last year if deaths were half the number of births. One wonders if most orthodox liberals failed their math classes—repeatedly.

Perhaps the starkest example of liberal confusion is sex education. In the mid to late 1960's, many liberals agitated for the

creation (and funds, naturally) of nation-wide sex. ed. programs. The nation heard continual calls to solve "the crisis" of teen pregnancy.

By the early 70's, sex ed. was well-established in public and private schools. And the pregnancy rate among unmarried girls from 15 to 17 years old rose 29 percent from 1970 to 1984—even though the number of abortions more than doubled. Now, one can't claim that the sex ed. programs *caused* the increased pregnancy. However, the programs are radical failures in their own terms: "enlightened" sex education, so claimed the social engineers, would reduce the "crisis levels" of teen pregnancy.

In fact, we'd rejoice if teen pregnancy rates plummeted to their "crisis" levels of the early 1960's: the crisis was another liberal urban legend. Up to 1957, pregnancy rates among teenage girls had *declined* for over a decade. And venereal diseases had *declined* every year from 1950 to 1960. A few establishment liberals concede these failures. Sargent Shriver, former head of the Office of Economic Opportunity, once testified before a congressional committee that venereal diseases "skyrocketed 350% in the last 15 years when we have had more clinics, more pills and more sex education than ever in history...teen-age pregnancy has risen". Today, Shriver's candid concession has disappeared down the cultural memory hole.

To be evenhanded, one must ask: Do conservatives have a better grasp of reality? Hardly.

The biggest conservative urban legend is that the United States prizes the free market and hates government interference. The market is a phenomenon of mystical wisdom, explain the conservatives. In fact, big business despises *really* free markets, and for a practical reason: free markets are volatile, mercurial, and downright brutal. Big business demands plenty of governmental "interference", such as huge tax breaks, direct subsidy, aggressive governmental lobbying overseas for U.S. products (from cigarettes to missiles), and highly-favorable "free trade" agreements such as GATT and NAFTA. These government "interferences" put most other nations at enormous disadvantage. American Mom and Pop businesses are hurt too: they're too small to make demands on the "free enterprise" gurus.

Boeing, IBM, and the drug company Burroughs Welcome (just to name three) have enjoyed enormous government "interference". Boeing couldn't survive in a free market: it depends upon government purchases of its products as well as US lobbying of governments to buy Boeing products. In an especially clever arrangement, the U.S. offers loans and credits to help other nations bolster their own defense: with the stipulation, of course, that the nations buy (for example) Boeing products. Ah, the wonders of free enterprise!

Another example: IBM profited from the enormous initial research and investment that the federal government spent on computing. Plenty of early Cold War budget poured into computer-based defense, and Uncle Sam (as well as publicly-funded research universities) paid for crucial R & D. IBM, of course, is happy to enjoy private profits that were made possible by publicly funded research.

The biggest conservative urban legend is that the United States prizes the free market and hates government interference.

And Burroughs Welcome—which sold the highly profitable (and highly toxic) anti-AIDS drug AZT—profited from government interference: the drug was developed in the 1970's by federal government research. Years later, the government simply handed over the drug's design to Burroughs Welcome... a venal violation of free market principles, generously overlooked by Burroughs and its stockholders.

Damn those intrusive government bureaucrats!

An equally huge conservative urban legend: United States foreign policy is selflessly devoted to the Global Greater Good. In this fantasy, the US is a gentle giant, a super-evolved demi-God whose benevolence is under-appreciated 'round the world.

However, the gentle giant grows loud and angry when nations stupidly think that their own resources should be directed first at ordinary citizens, rather than US multinationals and their clients.

Nicaragua is a classic example. For years, Uncle Sam supported the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. In the late 70's, Somoza's National Guard carried out large-scale atrocities against the Nicaraguan Sandinistas, including the bombing of residential neighborhoods. Tens of thousands were killed. Despite the terror, Somoza's government couldn't retain power.

In '79, Somoza washed up in Miami. The Carter Administra-

tion—widely praised for its devotion to human rights—flew Guard Commanders out of Nicaragua in planes with Red Cross markings (a war crime). The Reaganites escalated matters, helping re-build Contra forces and using economic strangulation against the Nicaraguan government.

Reagan displayed his keen grasp of global affairs by noting that Sandinistas could board Greyhound buses and gather at the Texas border: the Red Menace was alive and well! When Nicaraguan elections were scheduled in 1988, Uncle Sam promised serious havoc if the right candidate didn't win. Exhausted by war, the citizenry understandably elected a U.S.-friendly government. Naturally, the U.S. hailed the elections as free and fair, as if having a huge boot on the face of a tiny nation is fair play.

Whether liberal or conservative, political orthodoxy can indeed be understood as masturbation fantasy. It can also be understood as a subset of religious fundamentalism. Like religious fundamentalists, political fundamentalists value correct "feelings", are hostile to contradictory factual evidence, and condemn heretics who question the true believer.

"We are dominated by the fanatic, whose worst vice is his sincerity"—Oscar Wilde

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Searching for the proper punishment

Reassessing the Death Penalty

By Adam Finley

"Got two tickets to a midnight execution/ we'll hitchhike away from the desert of Houston/and when they turn on the chair, something's added to the air..." -- The Silver Jews

accused of fueling an already violent society, are actually examples of how our impulses can be given a safe venue.

This is not to say that, given a few hours with a paintbrush and a canvas, Sean Sellers would have vented all of his emptiness and confusion through some landscape painting and never have killed anyone. What it suggests is that when we begin to sort through a murderer's life to find out what turned him or her into a killer, we are also trying to uncover our own fascination with the concept. The news of Sellers' impending death spread like a cancer across print and visual media, as well as spawning a best-selling book. With the advent of the Internet and the World Wide Web, his story spread even faster than before. Sellers morphed from a disturbed child driven to unspeakable acts to just another icon symbolizing our nation's twisted preoccupations.

At this point in history, the United States of America is one of only six countries (including Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen) still executing individuals who were juveniles when the crime was committed, despite an international law prohibiting such sentencing. Indeed, the United States still employs the death penalty despite continuing abolishment across the globe. Several European nations have attacked the United States not only for our reliance on a system which has never been proven fully effective, but on our unflinching willingness to use it on juvenile offenders (although adult when executed) and women (the sentencing of Karla Faye Tucker in Texas just over a year ago being one of the most recent examples.)

Nevertheless, patriotism runs deep, and disapproval from other countries won't be enough to stop this nation from employing the death penalty. If other countries are disapproving adults, then the United States is the young child with its eyes shut tight and its fingers plunged snugly into its ears. But why?

At the heart of the pro-death penalty debate is the simple notion that if a criminal is not threatened with a punishment either equal to or greater than the crime they've committed, then there is no reason for him or her not to continue. This reworking of the classic "eye for an eye" argument seems absurd to opponents of the death penalty, who would much rather see steps taken

being one of them.

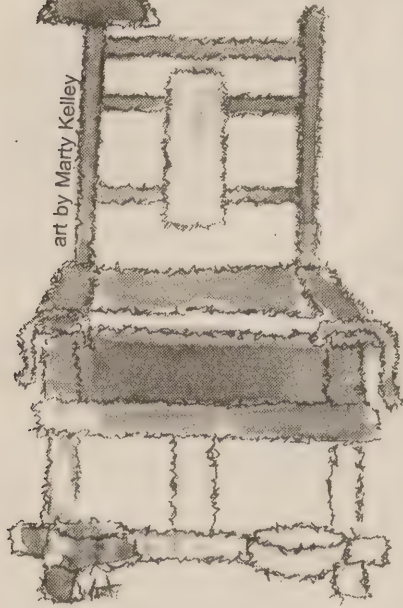
The most recent case occurred in Oklahoma in February of this year. Sean Sellers, at the age of sixteen, shot his mother and step-father while they were sleeping, and not before gunning down a convenience store clerk months earlier. He was executed thirteen years later at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester by lethal injection. He was twenty-nine.

Sellers is said to have endured physical and emotional abuse at the hands of several of his family members, including his mother and alcoholic father. When his mother remarried, Sean was forced to move almost 30 times. The constant abuse and unstable home life became the catalyst for Sellers' impending isolation and insanity. Sean turned to Satanism, drugs, and self-mutilation. He confessed to fantasizing about killing his parents.

Six years after the crimes were committed, psycho-analysts diagnosed Sellers with Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD). Despite the evidence that he was literally not himself when the killings occurred, a US Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit denied him an appeal. The decision tethered on the assumption that jurors, as average citizens, would be skeptical of MPD.

The assumption is not absurd. A vast amount of people even today have a difficult time with newly discovered mental disorders which seem to serve as legitimized excuses for murder. The scientific and medical evidence may be sound, but trying to make the victims' friends and family understand a brutal slaying within such a context is next to impossible, if not utterly callous.

It is fair to say that Sean Sellers was not a normal child, but, based on his background, he wasn't entirely abnormal either. Young children, especially boys, tend to explore their "dark impulses" to relatively harmless effects. Indeed, we wouldn't have an Edgar Allen Poe, an Alfred Hitchcock, or even a Quentin Tarantino had they not found a safe, creative outlet for their intrinsic malevolence. These are people who, although



art by Marty Kelley

GENERALLY SPEAKING, OUR COUNTRY FROWNS UPON MURDER, UNLESS THERE HAPPENS TO BE A GOOD REASON FOR IT.

In his novel *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding stripped a group of young boys of any societal influence and turned them loose on a deserted island. The boys, through lack of legislation, became savages. The book itself is frightening not because it involves children killing children, but because it lays the blame on human nature. The desire to kill and the romanticism inherent in it is not the by-product of a jaded media, or any other outside factor, but rather an implication woven into the fabric of humanity. It therefore seems obvious that violence must be met with violence, or else the murderer has no incentive not to kill.

But if Golding is right in assuming that human beings are flawed from the beginning, then what is stopping us from executing children who commit capital crimes?

So far, nothing at all.

Only 14 out of the 38 states that have capital punishment have passed legislation forbidding the death sentence to those individuals who were under the age of 18 when the crime was committed, Florida not

toward rehabilitation as opposed to simple eradication.

I was perusing the New York Times website when the news of John William King's death sentence came across the AP wire.

King was involved in the murder of James Byrd Jr., a black man who was tied to the back of a pickup truck and dragged three miles until a metal culvert separated his head and arm from his body. King was charged with first-degree murder.

I mentioned the ruling off-handedly to several people. Not surprisingly, everyone I spoke with believes that King deserves to be executed. What was surprising is that a few of these people were supposed opponents of the death penalty. Only one person I spoke with claimed it was wrong to execute him, and that life imprisonment was a more humane alternative. In parallel, just over a year ago Florida Supreme Court chief justice Gerald Kogan announced publicly that the substantial number of capital cases in the state had led him to believe that capital punishment was not working and that life imprisonment might be a more viable option. Nevertheless, Florida still ranks

The United States still employs the death penalty despite continuing abolishment across the globe. Several European nations have attacked the United States for our reliance on a system which has never been proven fully effective.

number three in death sentencing.

The dragging death in Jasper, Texas was a modern form of lynching, a practice which, 50 years ago, drew huge crowds that reveled in the excitement of it. Nowadays, the thought of such a social gathering is seen as atrocious. We haven't come to despise death, we've simply come to accept some forms and detest others. The mere fact that we accept killing in any form is a testament to our visceral nature. Whether it is lynching a man for the color of his skin, sentencing a teenager to death for crimes that (presumably) were beyond his level of self-control, or executing the mentally handicapped (which is still legal in 28 states, including Florida.)

Not long after the final shot was fired at the Jonesboro, Arkansas schoolyard slaying, people began to look for someone or something to blame. It wasn't so much the killing itself, as the type of killing that de-

manded this sort of explanation. An escaped mental patient spraying bullets into a crowd of children would have been just as horrific, but at least in that instance one would have the salve of some

logical explanation, a coherent path back to the killer's own warped mind. This case, however, left most people shocked.

Some, however, weren't shocked at all. Our desire to kill rages deep within us, and indeed it always has. But whether this constitutes a system of capital punishment used to keep people in check is difficult to say. Advocates of the death penalty see it as a necessary evil, but many see it as a roadblock on the path to our own civilized evolution.

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Amnesty International - Anti-Death Penalty
<http://www.amnesty-usa.org/abolish/>

Citizens United for an Alternative to the Death Penalty
<http://www.cuadp.org/>

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
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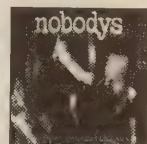


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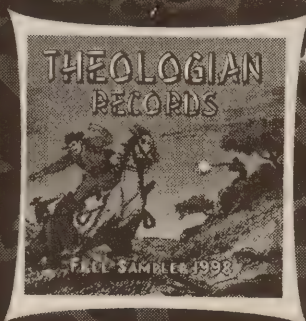
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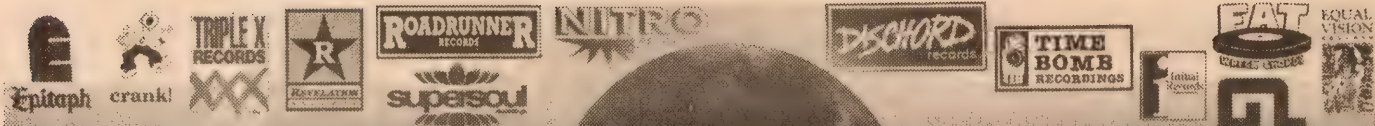
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The New Leadership is More Than New Faces Politics is Being Reinvented

by Terry Nichols Clark

AROUND THE WORLD, a new type of political leadership is emerging. Joining elements of the traditional left and right, this new leadership builds on new concerns — like making government more efficient and helping average citizens participate in policy making. Liberal on social issues, but fiscally conservative, practitioners of this new paradigm include national leaders — President Bill Clinton in America, Prime Minister Tony Blair in Great Britain and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Germany — while their counterparts have assumed power in state capitols and city halls.

The breadth and depth of this change in leadership is part of a shift in politics throughout the world. I call this sea of change the "New Political Culture," which is also the title of a new book by myself and Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot, a French political scientist. Studying citizen surveys, party programs, and 7,000 cities in 20 countries, we found that government is being changed by a new form of politics guided more by issues than by traditional distinctions between liberal and conservative positions. Thus we see President Clinton infuriating Labor and African-American leaders — two traditional Democratic core constituencies — by supporting the North American Free Trade Agreement and welfare reform without any apparent broader political repercussions.

At the local level, we see the New Political Culture coming to the forefront in — of all places — Chicago. The Hog Butcher of the World, my home for the past 30 years, has long been known for its raucous, often corrupt, politics. When we first began discerning this new type of political leadership, Chicago hardly seemed a likely candidate. Upscale college towns in scenic areas, like Boulder, Colorado seemed more likely locales. But during the 1980s and 1990s, Chicago changed more than it did during the first 80



Harold Washington

years of the twentieth century. The 1980s saw the election of Chicago's first African-American mayor, who initially frightened many whites. But Mayor Harold Washington, while maintaining his strong neighborhood base, largely pacified business interests, which invested billions of dollars into downtown development during his tenure. This balancing act was an early example of the New Political Culture in action.

As traditional parties continue to splinter, as former urban Democrats move to the suburbs, this new way of looking at public policy will continue to take shape.

eral steps further, in many ways resembling predecessors Washington and Jane Byrne more than his father, Richard J. Daley, who ruled the city for decades. From Byrne comes the emphasis on bread & circuses, with the shores of Lake Michigan hosting seemingly constant festivals, special events and fireworks. From Washington comes the emphasis on affirmative action and neighborhood development. Landscaping blooms along formerly blighted commercial streets; decorative wrought iron fencing springs up everywhere. These changes are more than cosmetic; they are the

building blocks for a new Chicago, one whose main industry is entertainment — including restaurants, conventions, hotels and shopping. We haven't butchered a hog in years. The city's number one business is entertainment.

The modern Mayor Daley embodies the New Political Culture by supporting social tolerance and inclusion. Chicagoans could never imagine Richard I marching in a gay pride parade, or choosing a black woman to head up his re-election campaign. His son Richard II has done both.

We see similar movement in cities elsewhere. In Detroit, Mayor Dennis Archer has abandoned the bombast and classic union liberalism of his predecessor, Coleman Young, instead emphasizing economic development and regional cooperation as policies that may bring hope to his predominantly African-American constituency. Cleveland has a broadly similar mayor.



Dennis Archer

At the state level, we see the New Political Culture in the successful campaigns of governors such as Gray Davis in California, Jeb Bush in Florida and his brother, George M. Bush of Texas, whose "compassionate conservatism" has made him an early favorite for the Republican presidential nomination next year. All three emphasize public education improvements as vital — both for economic development reasons and to improve conditions for their large Hispanic populations.

In the country's largest state, Gray Davis has evolved from chief of staff to former "Governor Moonbeam" Jerry Brown to a fiscal hawk who, as state comptroller for eight years, cracked down on governmental inefficiency and fraud in the state's Medi-Cal program. At one point, to force the state legislature to pass an overdue budget, he withheld paychecks from all elected state officials, including

Our current mayor, Richard M. Daley, has taken the process sev-

himself.

The backgrounds of these three governors — two Republicans and a Democrat — further demonstrate how personal appeal and positions on issues now transcend heritage and deep family roots. Two of them — Jeb Bush and Davis — aren't even natives of the states they now govern; Davis was born in the Bronx, and Bush moved to Florida less than 20 years ago. The Texas Gov. Bush grew up there, but went East for prep school and has degrees from both Harvard and Yale. Hardly a cowboy, although he can "talk Texas".

Jesse Ventura, the new Governor elected in Minnesota, is even less traditional: coming from the wrestling ring and a third party, he was scorned, initially, by party, business, and civic leaders. He spoke to these new political concerns more forcefully than the established candidates, however, and won the day.

In Arizona, the top five officials elected in November 1998 were all women. They replaced traditional leaders tarnished with scandals. Women nationally, and internationally, are disproportionate supporters of the New Political Culture, which stresses more consumption and lifestyle than jobs



Jesse Ventura

and money. Abortion, education, and an attractive environment are quite distinct issues from the older cries of jobs, profits, tariffs, and war. These new issues have replaced the old in most of the world, and women are coming to office in record numbers.

Partially because they transcend party lines, practitioners of the New Political Culture are not easy to categorize. They disagree as much with the views of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher as they do with Karl Marx and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The term "New Democrats" is often used, but what about Republicans like the Bush brothers? Another well-worn label, "centrist," falls short as well, since it implies unwillingness to make strong moves in any direction. Certainly, Clinton policy initiatives like NAFTA, welfare reform and health care were strong moves, although they appeared sometimes inconsistent in direction. The new leaders take many cues from citizen polls, and shift policy as citizen concerns unfold.

These "exceptions", cumulatively, add up to new rules of the game. Just because the trend is not yet summarized on a bumper sticker doesn't mean it's not there. As traditional parties continue to splinter, as former urban Democrats move to the suburbs, this new way of looking at public policy, this New Political Culture, will continue to take shape and redefine how we live in the New Millennium.

(Terry Nichols Clark, Pd.D., is Professor of Sociology at The University of Chicago. He is the founder and coordinator of the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, which includes 7,000 cities in 35 countries. His last book is *The New Political Culture*, Westview 1998.)



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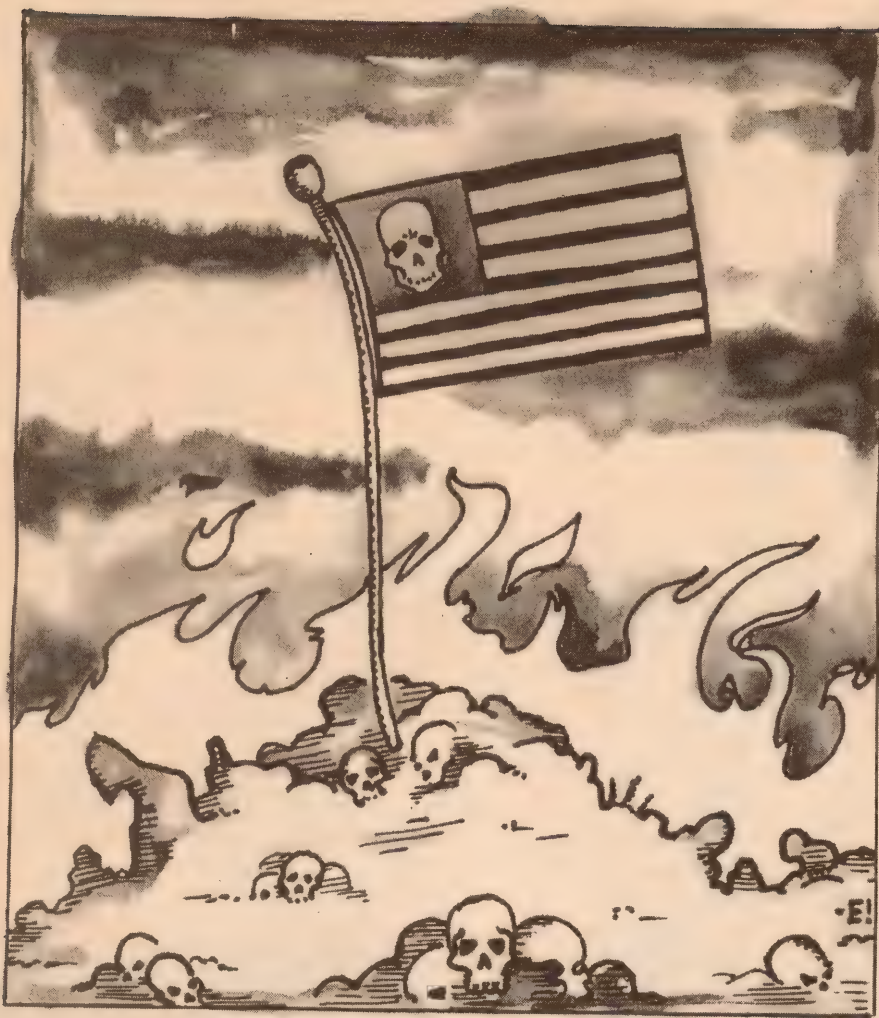
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The School of the Americas: Training Center For U.S. Imperialism's Assassins

By David Mericle
art by Eachan Edmundson

Throughout modern history, the United States has ruthlessly exploited its Latin American empire. While profits for multinational US firms soared, and the hopeless debts and dependency of the United States' southern neighbors grew, resistance to oppressive imperial rule mounted. From peasant and indigenous uprisings to popular revolutionary movements, it seemed that widespread opposition would inevitably terminate US imperialism's stranglehold over the region. Countering this hazard to history's greatest empire required brutal and indiscriminate military force — it required the School of the Americas. Countless atrocities and massacres, numerous dictators, and hundreds of thousands of human rights abuses have been the products of the School. Its graduates

are so murderous and its curriculum so barbaric that Congressman Esteban Torres has said, "The training that takes place in this country of military troops from another country, on how to seduce, torture, intimidate...is tantamount to what Nazis did."

The School of the Americas is a United States Army training center for Latin American soldiers. Officially, the School claims to promote military professionalism, coordinate Latin American military forces, and teach soldiers about the United States. Throughout its over 50 years, the School has trained over 60,000 foreign soldiers, many of whom have returned to their home countries to commit some of the most vicious atrocities in Latin American history.

THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL

The true purpose of the School of the

Americas has been to preserve US domination of Latin America through the only available method, military repression. After World War II, George Kennan, an important architect of US foreign policy, said, "We control about 50 percent of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population... Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity without positive detriment to national security... We need not deceive ourselves that we can afford today the luxury of altruism and world-benefaction." The Hoover Commission put it more bluntly, "Hitherto accepted norms of human conduct do not apply... If the United States is to survive, long-standing American concepts of fair play must be reconsidered... We must learn to subvert, sabotage, and destroy our enemies by more clever, sophisticated, more effective methods than those used against us."

Realizing that the United States' rhetoric of freedom and democracy was incompatible with its imperialistic reality, the US government began to strengthen its dictatorial puppet regimes and set out to suppress popular revolutionary movements in a systematic and ferocious manner.

The US military never restricted itself to supporting nations that upheld even the slightest level of freedom or democracy. Quite the contrary, the School consistently produced soldiers and officers to bolster fascist governments and death squads, sometimes even training men who would overthrow democratically elected governments. "There is hardly a country in our hemisphere that hasn't been touched by the crimes of School of the Americas graduates," said Congressman Joseph Kennedy. Although United States support for these ultra-rightist groups often enabled them to assume control of their country, the assistance hardly ended there. The fascist governments formed by US puppets were never popular, nor was the oppressive and exploitative model which the United States applied to its empire. To maintain the contradiction between growing US profits and unendurable poverty for the Latin American majority, the School of the Americas took on an essential role in training the soldiers of well-established ultra-rightist governments. Ray Bourgeois, the founder of SOA Watch, a group dedicated to documenting the atrocities of SOA graduates and shutting down the School, most accurately described the situation, "The starting point of

School of the Americas graduates have been proven to be responsible for beatings, blackmail, extortion, torture, assassinations, rape, massacres, arbitrary executions, and genocide.

this issue is really not the School of the Assassins. The point is the reality in Latin America, one in which the majority of people struggle in poverty just to survive. For so long, Latin American militaries have been defending a socioeconomic system that keeps the rich rich and the poor poor."

THE ARMY'S DEFENSE

The United States' military establishment has its own unique account of the objectives of the School of the Americas. As usual, the military's versions of history and reality are based on little honesty and less evidence. Typically, the military establishment advances five major arguments in defense of the School. They claim the School has created stability, that it exposes Latin American soldiers to US values, promotes respect for human rights, fights drugs, and is responsible for the transition to democracy in Latin America. Unfortunately, none of these claims are valid.

The School of the Americas has done little to preserve stability in Latin America and has proved that stability and a highly professional military are not always desirable. Through death squads and the regular SOA-trained armies of fascistic dictators, the School of the Americas has admittedly achieved some stability, primarily by murdering any possible dissenter. However, the death squads have also undermined numerous civilian governments and continue to pose a threat to civilian rule. Panama's president described the School as the "biggest base for destabilization in Latin America." Besides the fact that any stability the School has brought is more than canceled out by instability it has also brought, the supposedly stable SOA-aided governments, by their repressive nature, have also proven to be tremendous motivation for revolution. "SOA played a critical role in the development and professionalization of the Salvadoran Armed Forces," says SOA-written propaganda. Yet this professionalization, as will be shown later, enabled the military of El Salvador to wage war on its own people.

Another argument the military establishment makes is that the School exposes students to the values of the US. Even without accurately examining just what those values are, it is clear that this argument is incorrect as well. As a critic of the School has

noted, soldiers' experience in the US "shows them the good life, not democracy. They go home thinking that if their army stays in power they can continue the perks they experience here."

Perhaps the greatest lie of all about the School is that it teaches respect for human rights, democracy, and civilian control of government. US Army Major Joseph Blair, who taught at the School of the Americas, has said, "In three years at the School, I never heard of such lofty goals as promoting freedom, democracy, or human rights." In 1989 the School integrated some form of human rights education into all of its classes. However, Blair reports that most soldiers regard the classes as a joke, and that the human rights class he attended was taught by "a Pinochet thug." Charles T. Call, who works at the Washington Office on Latin America, also visited the School recently. "Unfortunately, I found that these changes are not much more than a facelift. Several instructors, I found, are from countries with appalling human rights records," he concluded. Another obstacle to any human rights training at the School is the fact that its instructors have included founders of paramilitary death squads, a military dictator, leaders of massacres, murderers, and soldiers convicted of war crimes.

The allegation that the School of the Americas is helping to fight the war on drugs is absurd. US government complicity with drug importation to the United States by the Contras, over 4,000 of whom were SOA graduates, shows that if anything, the SOA is responsible for aiding, not stopping, international drug smugglers. Countries with drug problems whose soldiers are being trained at the SOA, such as Colombia and Mexico, are using these soldiers to make war on domestic revolutionary movements, not drug dealers. Fighting rich people, drug dealers or not, has never been the intention of the School of the Americas.

Finally, the military makes the claim that Latin America's democracies came about because of the School. If any relationship between the two exists, it is that democracy has come about in spite of the SOA. The US government cannot refute the historical fact that SOA graduates have regularly overthrown elected civilian governments. Presently, Latin American democracy is producing results favorable to US business and

the rich elite in the region. But, if ever another Salvador Allende or Jacobo Arbenz threatens to democratically carry out the will of the people at the expense of multinational US corporations, School of the Americas graduates will always be waiting. It is the graduates of the School of the Americas that pose the greatest threat to Latin American democracy.

WHY CLOSE THE SCHOOL?

Objections to the School of the Americas are highly legitimate and greater in number. Recent opposition has built over the acknowledgement that the School used manuals that taught and promoted torture. Participation by SOA graduates in almost every major human rights abuse in recent Latin American history, including countless hideous atrocities, provides another reason for closing the School. Last, some of the most murderous dictators Latin America has known have been graduates of the School.

THE TORTURE MANUALS

As the Pentagon confirmed in 1992, the SOA advocated the use of torture and disseminated manuals that taught methods of torturing victims. The manuals described organizations threatening to the government as any group that criticizes the government or military, celebrates national or religious festivals, engages in political protest, constructs new housing, or refuses to provide intelligence to government forces. Unions, student and youth groups, political parties, and community organizations were named as groups that should be infiltrated by secret police forces. To accomplish their goals, the manuals instructed militaries to use bounty payments for enemy dead, motivation through fear, beatings, false imprisonment, executions, and Sodiopenthanol to elicit information.

ATROCITIES BY GRADUATES

School of the Americas graduates have been proven to be responsible for beatings, blackmail, extortion, torture, assassinations, rape, massacres, arbitrary executions, and genocide.

In El Salvador, 48 of 69 members of the military who the UN Truth Commission re-

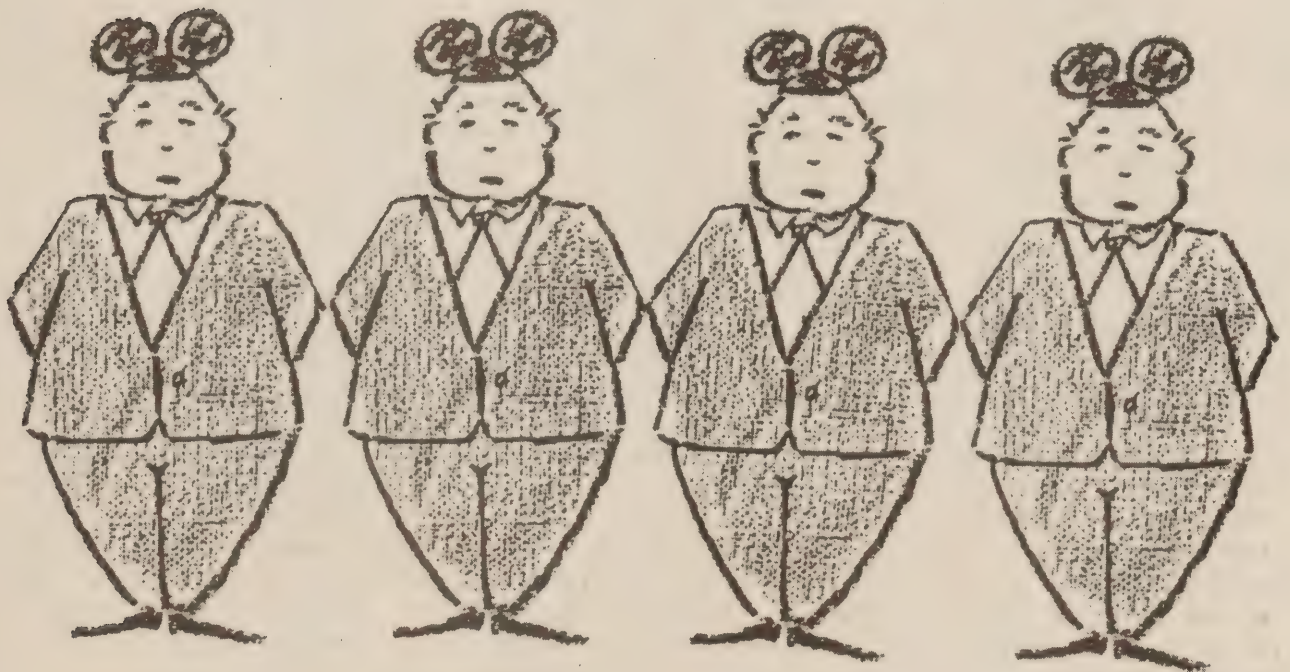
(SCHOOL, continued on page 38)

The Chaining of America

By Morris Sullivan

art by Marty Kelley

We care.*



*About money, not you.

There's a trend in the American economy that is perhaps worse than the stock market crash of 1929. It's probably worse than the communist invasion imagined during the McCarthy era. It's worse than the Y2K bug, even. It restricts your economic opportunities, limits your career options, and impacts on your freedom of choice—and the worst thing about is that you probably haven't even noticed that it's happening.

Business and social forecasters have started bewailing the difference in the work ethic between those young people now entering the job market and their parents' generation. They're less loyal, they say. They don't work as hard, don't feel responsible, etc. The gurus have blamed this on a number of different factors from drugs to rock and roll to permissive educators to being spoiled (because they're born into more wealth than the previous generation, have fancier toys, and don't think they should have to work as hard).

I don't think it has anything to do with any of that. I think it's a function of the changing American retail economy.

Free-market capitalism has become replaced by an economic structure that is far more pernicious than communism or socialism could ever be. This new socio-political-economic system doesn't even have a name, yet. So, let's give it one: Let's call it Martism. As in Wal-Mart or K-Mart. We could have chosen to call it Maxism, Depot-ism, or any of a number of other isms, but Martism seems pretty definitively descriptive.

It's not an easy system to explain, but I'll try. Maybe it would be best to start by explaining how the free-market used to work.

Once upon a time in America, if you wanted to buy a quarter pound of nails, you hopped in your Chevy and drove five minutes to the neighborhood hardware store. As you entered the store, a smiling old fella in dungarees greeted you with, "Hi. Can I help you find something?" To which, of course, you responded that you needed a quarter pound of nails "like these ones here." You then followed the old fella down through a maze of aisles, he'd reach into a bucket and say, "You mean, like these ones?" and

weigh you out a handful. After that, you'd follow him back to the front counter, he'd ring them up, take your money, and wish you a nice day.

The coolest part of this, too, was that if you got pissed off at your neighborhood hardware store, you could drive an extra five minutes to a different one, where you'd not only get better service (hopefully) but also have the satisfaction of indulging in the old-fashioned American pastime of "taking your business elsewhere." When competition really meant something, that was quite an important activity.

I know this must sound idyllic—perhaps like a fantasy, even—but things really did work like that once. I know, because I used to manage a store that was a lot like that hardware store.

Consider today's equivalent to that experience. You go to Home Depot and wander around until you either manage to find what you need (self-service) or persuade someone to help you. That someone, more than likely, will tell you which aisle to look down, then walk off. You'll eventually find what you need. As you meander through the aisles looking for the checkout lanes, you'll probably pick up stuff you don't need, too. The stores are carefully mapped out to maximize your impulse purchases. When you check out, you may or may not get a smile and a "good day." It depends on the mood of the clerk. And you'll only get out of there after standing in line.

You'll save money on that dozen nails. However, you'll spend money you didn't intend to spend, and the trip will take you, on average, about three times as long as the trip to the corner hardware store would have.

If you get pissed off at the Home Depot

people, then what? Take your business elsewhere, of course, to Builder's Square, maybe? You'll get more of the same, I'm sure. It's the nature of giant corporations to offer as little service as possible, because service is expensive, and they owe their market share to price-cutting, and therefore cost-cutting.

At the store I managed, we didn't sell hardware; we sold office supplies. Store policy dictated that before you got more than 20 feet from the front door, someone had to offer to help you. It worked, too. It worked, because the sales people knew that if you got farther than that before they tried to wait on you, the floor manager would kick their butts. And the floor manager knew that if she didn't, I might come out of my office, see an un-tended-upon customer and kick *her* butt. And if I didn't, the owner might come in, and he'd definitely kick *my* butt.

The customers knew it, too. If they didn't get the treatment they expected, they'd ask to see the owner, Jim, who usually wasn't there, and they'd see me. I knew Jim well enough to know how he'd want his customers handled, and I'd do right by them—and they knew that, too. And if, after all that, they got pissed off, they could take their business elsewhere. Jim didn't like it when people did that, so we all knew it was important to him—and ultimately to our jobs—to keep them from doing that.

We were all convinced that our customers shopped with us because they wanted fair prices, but most of all because of our excellent service.

So much has changed in only a couple of decades.

In 1987, when I sold my interest in the office supply store, there were over a dozen

With a big chain like this, there is no owner. Ownership lies in the hands of some vaguely-defined group of people called "stockholders," and the employees don't know any of them.

commercial stationers in the Orlando. Now, just over a decade later, the population of Orlando has nearly doubled, yet the number of commercial office supply stores has fallen to less than half. Incidentally, the number of small hardware stores has fallen at least that far.

Very soon after the doors closed behind me for the last time, an Office Depot opened. Within a year, two more had opened, followed soon after by Office Max. I'm sure that if I had stayed in the business, I would have sat back and smugly stated that we would lose very few customers to Office Depot—they couldn't match our service, and they couldn't carry as many items as we did.

This part is complicated, but I'll try to explain. Part of making money comes from buying at one price and selling at a higher one. The difference is called "markup." Another part of making money comes from "turning over" your inventory—that is, selling it before it sits on the shelf too long. The lower your markup, the faster you have to turn it over, or you run out of money. Making money, then, for the big warehouse operations, is a function of keeping only those items on the shelf that you'll sell in a hurry, so you never have a lot of your funds tied up in inventory for very long.

This limits your choices. For example, we carried ribbons for a variety of ancient adding machines. We didn't sell many, but they were there if someone came in looking for a ribbon for his old Adler or whatever. If the same customer went into one of the big chains, he wouldn't find that ribbon. They couldn't sell enough of them to turn the stock over fast enough. His choice, then, would be to replace the adding machine with a new calculator.

My theory about our customers valuing our service was inaccurate, too. Recent studies have shown that people don't care about that much any more. They shop for price.

Not too long ago, I was in one of the Marxist representatives of the New Economic Order, Office Depot. I had picked up some essentials, and noticed a shelf-full of canned honey-roast peanuts. It was way past lunch-time, and didn't look like I was going to get a break any time soon, so I got a can. I was hungry, so as soon as I was in my car, I pulled the yellow plastic top off the can. To my surprise, the inner seal had already been opened and half the peanuts already eaten.

I took the can back inside and over to the customer service desk.

Now, here's what would have happened at my store.

CUSTOMER: Um...I just bought these here, and someone's already opened the can and eaten some.

STORE EMPLOYEE: Oh, my gosh! I'm so sorry. Wait here and I'll get you another. (*yelling as he walks to the back of the store for another can*) Mr. Sullivan! Come look at this! (*returning with another can, which he'd already checked to make sure it hadn't been opened, too*) Here you are, sir. I'm so sorry. (*handing me the opened can*) I think Lloyd put these on the shelf. Do you want to ask him, or shall I?

MANAGER (ME): Lloyd! I need to see you in my office! NOW!!

Here's what happened at Office Depot.

CUSTOMER (ME): Um...I just bought these here, and someone's already opened the can and eaten some.

STORE EMPLOYEE: (*eyeing me suspiciously*) Well...okay, go ahead and get another one. (*giggling as I walk to the back of the store, pick up another, check to see if it had been opened, put the lid back on, check another, put its lid back, finally find one that hadn't been opened already.*)

ME: OK...I'll take this one. Here are two others that had been opened.

STORE EMPLOYEE: (*giggling*) It must be that night crew. Those guys are always doing stuff like that. (*to manager*) Hey, will ya take a look at this?

MANAGER: (*giggle*)

McIMPACT



Maybe this doesn't seem like a very big deal. However, I recently witnessed an interchange between a customer, service-personnel, and a manager at a foremost example of Martism—WalMart. The customer had bought a bright orange, high-tech off-road bike for his son's Christmas present, and a pedal had fallen off. The customer had dutifully brought it back to the store, found the exact same item in the bike department, and rolled them to the returns & exchanges counter.

The person at the counter didn't want to make the exchange, and called for the manager. The manager wanted the customer to return on Monday with the bike, so that the same half-wit who assembled it in the first place could "repair" it. The customer wanted to swap on the spot, and couldn't understand why the store's return policy was different for bikes than it was for everything else.

The exchange ended when the manager said, "That's just how it is," turned his back on the still-irate customer, and walked off. I wanted to slap the silly-ass cracker. If I were an attorney, I'd have

You really can't give good service if you don't have the responsibility for the customer's satisfaction, and almost no one working for a big retail corporation thinks of themselves as responsible for that. →

been over there offering to sue the bastards on behalf of the justifiably irate customer. However, I'm only a writer, so there wasn't much I could do except point out that this was at the WalMart in Bradenton on Sunday, January 18, and that the store manager was a pudgy, pasty-faced white guy and the customer was African American. (In case any attorney happens to read this and decide to make a big deal out of it.)

You could claim that the manager's rudeness was racially motivated. However, that's a doubtful claim. Probably, he'd have been just as rude no matter what color (or sex, or age) the customer. Why shouldn't he be rude? It's not his customer. The bottom line is that the customer and the business he brings along belongs to the owner.

So where's the owner?

With a big chain like this, there is no owner. Ownership lies in the hands of some vaguely-defined group of people called "stockholders," and the employees don't know any of them. Chances are, at any given date, even the stockholders don't know they own a business. Much of the existing volume of stocks is held by mutual funds and other "pooled" investments. Ownership of those

stocks changes hands with the rise and fall of markets, and the decision to own or not own are made with the aid of computer trading programs. Suppose the guy with the bike works for a company with a retirement program that invests in mutual funds. On that particular day, he may well have owned a tiny piece of that Walmart. In theory, that manager was responsible and accountable to that customer—but neither of them knew it.

It's that ignorance of accountability and responsibility that has created the lack of service in our retail world.

Once upon a time, there was a marketplace cliché: the customer is always right. That philosophy has all but disappeared. Many of the people on the front lines no longer feel any responsibility for the consumer's happiness. You can see that every day. Eating in a Denny's, McDonald's, or other chain, for example, if you point out a flaw in the food or service, you are more likely to get an excuse about it, or to hear the "fault" attributed to someone other than the server, than you are to get an apology and an offer to correct the problem.

You really can't give good service if you don't have the responsibility for the customer's satisfaction, and almost no one working for a

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big retail corporation thinks of themselves as responsible for that.

Shortly before I quit smoking, I went to a 7-11 for a pack of smokes. Cigarettes had just gone up to almost three bucks a box, and I noticed a big display advertising Camels for \$2.29. I decided to get Kamel Reds instead of my usual brand, since they were on the display. The clerk scanned them, and asked for \$3.15. I pointed out that they were on sale.

"They scanned for \$3.15," she said.

"I see that, but the sign says they're \$2.29"

She didn't seem to think she was responsible for that. The computer, after all, was her decision-maker, so the responsibility obviously lay with the person who put the price in the computer— whoever that was. They'd probably never seen each other, and never would. The price-programming person probably had never even seen the store, and would never have to wait upon a customer.

I pressed the issue. Muttering to herself, she peered over at the placard above the cigarettes, then pointed at an almost imperceptible line of type. "Oh—this says 'except for Reds,'" she said proudly.

I told her to sell me the regulars, then, but pointed out that they really should either sell the Reds for the sale price or take them off

the display. Someone, somewhere, had obviously screwed up, and it was deceptive.

"So sue the cigarette company," she said. "They set up the display."

Now, what she was telling me was that not only was neither she nor anyone else in the building capable of making the decision to either sell me the reds at the sale price or to remove them, but no one at Southland Corporation had the responsibility, either. Someone at R.J. Reynolds was in charge of that square foot of counter space.

It's no wonder you can't get good service, and it's no wonder the children of the baby boomers are considered to be disloyal employees. Who the hell would you be loyal TO?

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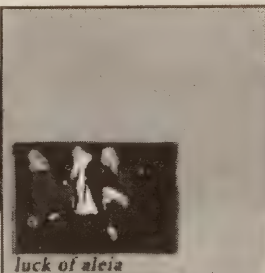
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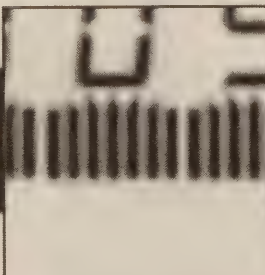
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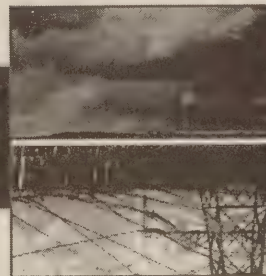
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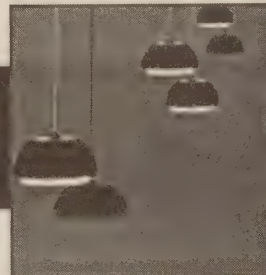
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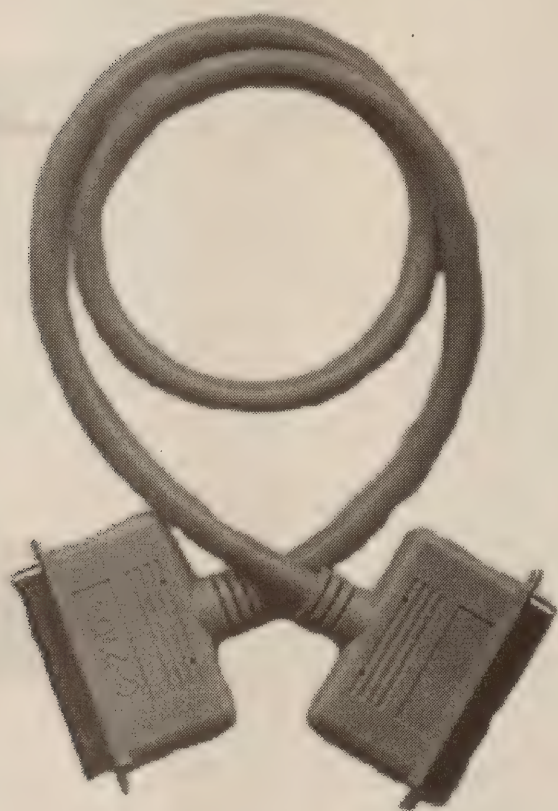
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Quickies

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2 Live Crew • Greatest Hits Vol. 2 • Lil' Joe Records • Ah, the good old days. Who can forget singing along to "Do Wah Diddy" and "Me So Horny?" The 2 Live Crew is back with their Greatest Hits Vol. 2, which includes such unforgettable romantic staples like "Sex, I Like It, I Love It," "We Want Some Pussy" and "Baby Baby Please Just a Little More Head." Of course, the First Amendment anthem "Banned in the USA" is included as well. 16 tracks in all, featuring the hilarious new track "Bill so Horny." Pop this one in your CD player, cuddle up with your favorite girl and enjoy some good tunes.

6X • Kung-Pow! • Daemon Records • Infectious pop punk with excellent female vocals. I am impressed. It's a great cd for anyone - regardless of musical taste.

78 RPM'S • New World Chivalry • Dill Records • This is a super great release! The Hammond alone wins this one over for me. 78 RPM's are ex-members of Skankin' Pickle, but play much better music and write tons better songs. Check this out if you've been searching for an exceptional fast paced ska album to lift your spirits.

Amorphis • Tuonela • Relapse Records • This Finnish quintet blends elements from '70's progressive rock, modern metal, Finnish folklore and medieval folk song influences with remarkable musicianship. They take their name from the word amorphous, which means "with no definite form or shape." This becomes evident in their music, as they flirt with death metal and then hypnotize you with rich layered keyboards. This is an impressive album for heavy metal fans to enjoy.

Angry Samoans • The 90's Suck and So Do You • Triple X Records • I have one old Angry Samoans cassette and its worn fairly thin from extensive use. When I got this disc, I was amazed to find that they sound a bit mellower than they did in the days of yore. They are still definitely the Angry Samoans, but they sound like the Irritated Samoans. Don't misunderstand - it's good, but it's not great.

Armchair Martian • Hang, on Ted • Cargo Music • Good rock sometime bordering on punk, sometime bordering on a country influenced sound. Vocals sound quite a bit like those of Social Distortion and that is certainly a good thing.

A-Set • The Science of Living Things • Tree Records • Albert Menduno appears to be the main man behind A-Set. Menduno plays guitar, bass, drums, organ, and sings on the record in addition to writing all six songs. The tunes have a folky indie rock feel similar to Portastatic.

Badawai • The Heretic of Ether • Asphodel Records • This is not just music put on some plastic. This is a journey through time and yourself. Instruments ranging from the Zarb (classical drum) to the piano were used in the making of this truly amazing album. Its melodies are both eerie and spiritual. Take a musical chance and add this to your CD collection.

Belloluna • Livid and Loving It • Daemon Records • I really like this. A lot. It is strange music. It is good music. They sing a song called I Wanna Be Like Martha Stewart. Writing about music is hard without comparisons so here I go (forgive me) but they remind me in a small way of

The Barenaked Ladies. Not in a rip-off way, in a stylistic way. This is a super-cool disc.

Black Attack • Rep Da R.I. 12" • Real Deal Recordings • DJ Honda bailed on the majors to start his own indie and this is a great example of the stuff he's releasing. Black Attack is solid hip-hop with bop-your-head beats and a great flow to let you know BA is no joke. The samples used work and aren't overdone and the beats aren't another Wu-Tang rip-off, this is some original wax to get a party going.

Black Sheep • Sacrifice • Rocks' Cool Records • Sorry, but I'm really not impressed. Four tracks which are just too melodramatic to be metal. This is overproduced and just lacking. This band has hosted some very famous members but it just does not live up to its potential. Try again next time.

Blinder • Mienakusuru • self-released • Here's a Bean-town band that seems to have a nice thing going. This EP is new rock full of off-time licks and tight arrangements. The high point, however, is the female singer's beautiful voice.

Blue Yard Garden • No Good Sundays • Empeyan Records • Turn the radio on. Have you heard Blue Yard Garden? Not yet, but you probably will before too long. BYG is a band that has the sound of a great pop/rock/blues independent band but also the sound that mainstream America loves. Good CD - they have more talent and staying power than Matchbox 20 and Third Eye Blind (they would have to.) Maybe mainstream America needs these guys.

Bombshell Rocks • Street Art Gallery • Sidekicks Records • Highly energetic and slightly gritty punk rock from Swedish quintet. Pretty typical tales of angst and disappointment, backed by powerful guitars and beats. The singer sounds a bit like the guy from Rancid, but without the ska influences.

Burning Airlines • Mission-Control! • DeSoto Records • Welcome back J. Robbins, we all missed you. The great musician from Jawbox (and Government Issue before that) is back with Burning Airlines, which includes Jawbox bassist Bill Barbot and Robbins' Government Issue co-star Peter Moffett. The result is awesome, striking, and captivating. Jawbox never had the of "Mission Control!". Obviously, this is a different band, but the comparisons will be made nonetheless. Combining Robbins' vocals with a melodic, indie-rock feel, the outcome is a work of art. The creativity of this record goes off the scale, combining simplistic beauty with complex emotional intensity. Words will never describe great music properly, they can only encourage you to partake in the experience. You have now been encouraged.

Chicken Dog • The Other White Meat • Sin Klub Entertainment • Exactly how much distortion can you get out of one guitar? I think the answer lies within. Chicken Dog is different. They really don't adhere to one style. Instead they alternate between punk, hardcore, grindcore and even metal. And they don't alternate between tracks, they do it within each song! Little. Yellow. Different.

Chisel Drill Hammer • self-titled • Hefty Records • With songs that rarely exceed 3 minutes, Chisel Drill Hammer work their way through

post grunge experimental art rock without bothering to record vocals. Their self-titled debut, recorded by Steve Albini, sounds similar to Blonde Redhead, while keeping its own identity intact.

Colleen Coadic • The Next Twelve • Scream of Consciousness • Badoo Toonz Music • Coadic's voice is sweet and strong one minute gritty and powerful the next. The musicians backing her are a perfect compliment to her vocals and intimate lyrics.

Defari • Focused Daily • Tommy Boy Records • If you're into rap you already know Defari, a.k.a. The Hip-Hop Scholar. Defari is a high school teacher in California, who has his masters in teaching from Columbia University. Yeah, that's right, you might learn something if you listen to him. I admit I'm no rap aficionado, but his CD is solid. Defari likens his style to some "higher echelon hip-hop like Gang Starr and Pete Rock," and that's pretty accurate. If you're into rap and haven't gotten this yet, you're cheating yourself.

Deviate • Darkened World • I Scream Records • Stand far away from your speakers and absorb this. This is what metal is all about. Seriously fierce music that still remains melodic - not losing itself to speed or overproduction. This is raw gut clutching sound.

Diane Izzo • One • Sugar Free Records • Diane Izzo sounds very familiar. Her voice is an amalgam of a lot of the women singers out there, as are her songs. She sounds very akin to Abra Moore, Shawn Colvin and Amanda Marshall. It's nothing you haven't heard before but it's every bit as good. If you're sick of the listening to those aforementioned discs, Izzo will be a fresh breath of air.

Doctor Explosion • The Subnormal Revolution • Get Hip • Imagine the 60's hits "Wipeout" and "Louie, Louie" mixed with some very potent acid and you have the sound of Doctor Explosion. Its wacky, its rock, its punk. It is completely insane. I love it.

Ensign • Cast the First Stone • Nitro • This is serious hardcore. Fast and powerful will a really full sound - this will make you get your sorry ass up out of the chair and head for the pit. There are a lot of songs on this disc and they are all quite nice.

Epperley • Sophomore Slump • Triple X Records • *Sophomore Slump* is the second effort from Epperley. The Tulsa, Oklahoma quartet's straight-ahead rock and witty lyrics are reminiscent of Harvey Danger, with melodies that stick in your head like a pencil in the ear. There's no sophomore slump here, my friend.

F.Y.P. • Incomplete Crap Vol. 2 • Recess Records • Turn up the music and start movin' - this is a great punk rock album. With 43 uptempo songs on it there is a little bit of something for everyone. FYP has been around for over eight years and they are still as punk as ever.

Faraquet/Akarso • split CD • 404 Records • Each band plays four-tracks. Faraquet is a three-member DC-based band with DC-like stylings, such as creative, intricate music, complex, yet minimalist sounds, a focus on the instruments minus vocals and an underlying emotional basis for the end result. Akarso delivers a bit more aggressive music that includes vocals that slap

Quickies

A little bit on a lot of records.

you in the face. The music, I think, is best described as jazzcore – intense shifts within each song that are bad-ass to say the least.

Floraline • *self titled* • **Minty Fresh** • This is a nice CD, with electronic instrumentation used to build a better pop song. The female vocals are wispy and soothing. This is pretty music for pretty people, with interesting sounds and smart lyrics.

Gaza Strippers • *Laced Candy* • **Man's Ruin** • Punk-n-roll, baby. This is a mighty disc of mighty music. Good sound and catchy riffs make this a disc which you will find yourself going for again and again. Good Stuff.

Golden • *Super Golden Original Movement* • **Slowdime** • It's fair to say that Golden certainly fits into the eclectic Slowdime roster. The words 'original' and 'movement' are on the title, giving the impression of an agenda that drives this band. It is made up by members of Trans Am, Royal Trux and Six Finger Satellite. They take their instrumental experimentation to the next level, meddling with ambient overtones and unusual percussion. Fans of Don Caballero should like this one.

Goobar Patrol • *The Unbearable Lightness of Being Drunk* • **Fat Wreck Chords** • These four punksters are pretty cool. They just look like guys you'd like to go have a few beers with. And, hey, their music ain't half-bad either! This isn't real fast punk, it's more like power pop meets punk. Very addicting and a helluva lotta fun.

Groovie Ghoulies • *Fun In The Dark* • **Lookout Records** • Long live the Ramones! It seems like the Ramones sound will never die, as long as bands like the Groovie Ghoulies keep imitating their sound. Although I have to admit that "Fun In The Dark" is one of the better ones I've heard. For one thing, the guitars are a bit meatier. Lead singer Roach sounds remarkably like a teenage Joey Ramone growing up in the 90's. I enjoyed their cover of Sonny Bono's "Laugh at Me" and really dug the creepy Dr. Seuss-meets-Halloween cover art by S. Britt.

Hayden • *Moving Careful* • **Sonic Unyon Records** • I bought my first Hayden CD (Everything I Long For) and thought he was brilliant. I mean, he still is brilliant I guess, I just can't take that much Hayden. This CD was recorded in April and May of 96 but still has the Hayden flavor of his later CD's. It's very brooding, very dark and quite beautiful. If you haven't heard him before, his acoustic stylings are worth your time.

Hell on Wheels • *Alpha Phozz and the Beta Hustle* • **Urinine Records** • Do the Beta Hustle to this six-song ep from Hell on Wheels. The trio plays indie rock that is at times reminiscent of early Pixies, with an emphasis on lo-fi melodies and strained vocals. Good stuff.

Inlantic • *self-titled* • **404 Records** • What started as experimentation has turned into some amazing keyboard-driven jazz. Mostly comprised of unique keyboard implementation and jazz-oriented percussion (and the occasional bit of guitar work), Inlantic conjures up tunes that are always beautiful, sometimes very emotional and always captivating. This is one of those records that you never would have thought you'd like, but after a listen you're drawn into it and it won't let you go.

Inspector 7 • *Banished to Bogealand* • **Radical**

Records • Even a sax player named Lord Skoochie (complete with King Diamond type make-up) can't save this SKA combo from a weak sound. The music seems to be lacking some spark. It starts off okay, but it doesn't go anywhere.

Jim O'Rourke • *Eureka* • **Drag City** • If you have zero expectations of Jim O'Rourke, you may find this CD tolerable, enjoyable even. If you are familiar with Jim O'Rourke by way of Sonic Youth, well, this contains no noise experiments. What you get is an expansion of his abilities in the realm of soft music and singing. He's able, but it's not very exciting to listen to unless you're into soft jazz.

Jimmy Eat World • *Clarity double LP* • **Big Wheel Recreation** • JEW is leading the pack of beautiful, emotionally charged rock bands. This double LP (on clear blue vinyl) is their latest album (in CD form on Capitol – support the indie label, buy the vinyl). The harmonies are sincere, solid and sharp. They'll catch your ear and make your heart dance. Vocally, Jimmy is a wonderful singer with lyrics that are smart and thoughtful. JEW combines simple, sweet sounds with complex intensity like no other band.

Joydrop • *Metasexual* • **Tommy Boy Music** • Some of you have heard of Joydrop by now, as they're finally gaining some airplay on decent radio stations (NOT Orlando). I absolutely love this band. They sound like Garbage and G vs. B

wrapped into one f'ing awesome ball. Tara Slone's voice is amazing and the band is wicked-good. This CD is a little mellower than their last but it's worth every penny.

Kittens • *The Night Danger Album* • **Sonic Unyon Records** • They should change their name to Growling Lions. Their sound is somewhere between metal and hard rock. No purring on this album. I dig it.

Limp • *Guitarded* • **Honest Don's** • Limp is another melodic punk band with a hint of ska from California. The songs are tight and the production is good; it just sounds like you've heard these songs before somewhere. Must be something in the water out west.

Link Protrudi and the Jaymen • *Hit and Run* • **Get Hip Records** • Get out your flowered shorts and way up your surf board. Here is a disc that will make you think you're an extra on the old Batman show. Surf guitar and smooth beats set the tone for your very own beach party. This is cool stuff.

Low • *Secret Name* • **Kranky** • Low's back with another album of their minimalist pop. *Secret Name* is more upbeat than some of their previous work, but still retains their distinctive less is more style. It's the perfect soundtrack for those sleepless evenings when you're lost in your own thoughts and don't really mind.

Lower East Side Stiches • **STAJA 98 L.E.S.**



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Quickies

A little bit on a lot of records.

NG Records • Punk, man, punk. Big, fucking mohawks and kilts and boots. This is punk as it is meant to be. It is raw, it is fast, it is great. Catchy melodies infuse this pure punk extravaganza. I sang my sorry self to sleep last night with their tune *Naked A*. It is great.

Man or Astroman? • *Eeviac* • **Touch and Go Records** • Hop on your outer-space surfboard and catch some intergalactic waves with the electrofied, guitar-happy tunes on *Eeviac*, a thirteen-track experience sending you to far-reaching parts of lesser-known galaxies. If Dick Dale were an alien with a computer and a Casio, he would fit right in.

Manual Scan • *All Night Stand* • **Get Hip Recordings** • Despite aligning myself with modernism, I've yet been able to endure much of retro-inspired mod rock, all the less bands that have ties to the late 70's mod revival. With that bias stated, I don't see much of the point of getting this disc if you have the chance to pick up records by the Small Faces or Otis Redding. But bias aside, there are some good power pop moments here. Give it a listen. These guys loved what they did, and they did it well.

Me First • *Supertouchyfeely* • **Broken Rekids** • Me First is back with their follow up to *Awful Friendly*. After a few lineup changes, they are no longer an all girl band. Their melodic rock sound still packs a punk rock edge, while Denise Campanaro lets herself experiment with the vocals in a way we had not experienced before.

Me First and the Gimmie Gimmies • *Are A Drag* • **Fat Wreck Chords** • Awesome! Punk rock show tunes - listen to it and your friends will think you have some culture. With their version of *Evita*, Madonna may have some competition to worry about.

MK Ultra • *The Dream is Over* • **Artichoke Records** • It says to file this under experimental pop and that's about as good as I could say it. This band open a few dates for *Sunny Day Real Estate* and I'd call it a perfect fit. They sound a lot like *Sunny Day* but not as much crunch. Nor are they as guitar driven as *SDRE* but they have some strong emo-tendencies. It didn't really tickle my fancy but it might yours.

Moa • *Universal* • **Tommy Boy** • The underlying

music on this is amazing. Great bass loops and driving beats. Moa- the namesakeartist- sings in an Eartha Kitt style that works. It's nice to hear this, as the vocals and music serve one another to create a sonic experience greater than it's parts.

MU330 • *Self-titled* • **Asian Man Records** • I first heard these guys years ago and I really liked them. I bought two more of their discs and I was unimpressed. Now, I'm impressed again. This is really good SKA-punk full of catchy tunes.

Mustard Plug • *Pray for Mojo* • **Hopeless Records** • This CD is a must listen for those in need of a pop punk or ska-punk fix. They run the gamut of said styles yet keep it all fun. Pick this disc up, because Mustard Plug show a maturity and versatility few ska bands have been able to grown into.

Neglected Sheep • *Ghostman On Third* • **Live-stock Music** • If you are looking for a good pop/rock band but are tired of all the crap that is on the radio then pick up this CD.

Neurosis • *Times of Grace* • **Relapse Records** • Preparing themselves for the Apocalypse (and us with them), Neurosis assaults the senses with their musical onslaught. *Times of Grace* is both emotionally dark and rhythmically diverse, both extreme and subtle. A good example of this duality is the track "Away," first sung almost at a whisper, backed by piano and rushing wind, until the guitars kick in and the screaming starts.

New American Shame • *Self-titled* • **Will Records** • Remember the hair bands? Big hair, spandex and mascara? Do you want to live that sound all over again? Here is the band to help you do it. Eight hard-rocking tunes that will teleport you back to the mid-eighties.

Nobodys • *GenerationXXX* • **Hopeless** • Now we're talking about doing some rocking. This is good punk. Almost every song is about getting laid or groping some gal's dairy set-up. 25 songs of pure punk joy and mayhem. This is good, good music.

Of Montreal • *The Gay Parade* • **Bar None Records** • Imagine They Might Be Giants, but sillier. This is a collection of songs influenced by the Beatles and Brian Wilson, among others, in a style lead singer Kevin Barnes calls "innocent songwriting." Boy, is this silly music. Just check out some of the titles: "Advice from a Divorced Gentleman to His Bachelor Friend Considering Marriage," and "A Man's Life Flashing Before His Eyes While He And His Wife Drive Off a Cliff Into the Ocean."

Paul K. & the Prayers • *Saratoga* • **Alias Records** • Before the first verse of the first song is over you know that Paul K is a great songwriter. His lyrics pull you in and keep you there. The rock and folk are apparent with the use of his guitar, the harmonica (in some tracks) dabbles with the blues. Put it all together and you have a dynamite combination.

Pete Krebs and the Gossamer Wings • *Sweet Ona Rose* • **Cavity Search Records** • If this is the first time you've seen Pete Krebs' name, you've been missing something great. Krebs was the leader of the pop/punk band Hazel, which released two fantastic albums

on the Sub Pop label. But this time Pete has set aside the loudness and put out a great acoustic pop album. He hand-picked this band (including John Moen of *Dharma Bums* and Ben Shepherd of *Soundgarden*) and they've put out a great pop CD. He threw in some horns, some piano...whatever he could find, and the result is staggering. Soft power pop at its best.

pH Balance • *self-titled* • **Daemon Records** • Pam Howe (pH, get it?) and company strike a wonderful balance between the poetry of hip-hop and the roots of jazz and soul with sweet sensual melodies with their self-titled debut. To quote Howe: "If Portishead is the dark side of trip-hop, then we're the light side."

Potshot • *Rock N Roll* • **Asian Man Records** • For those familiar with Potshot, this might be a bit of a change. Yes, it's still the same punk influenced ska that you enjoy, but this release sounds a bit more polished, more mature (as mature as a ska band can be!). Pretty fast, and you can sing along with it. In fact, the first track, "Sing along with Potshot" urges you to do just that.

Prince Paul • *A Prince Among Thieves* • **Tommy Boy Records** • Prince Paul presents an audio movie on this CD. As the producer, Prince Paul enlists the help of Biz Markie, Big Daddy Kane, Everlast, Chubb Rock, Sadat X, De La Soul, and Xzibit to set the stage. The story involves two friends and it breaks down like this: Tariq wants to be a rapper; he's got an audition with the Wu-Tang Clan but doesn't have enough money to get his demo finished; True is a hustler and gives Tariq an introduction to crime to make the money, but things don't go as planned. In the end evil conquers all.

Propagandhi • *Where Quantity is Job #1* • **G-7 Welcoming Committee Records** • The Canadian political punks are back with a compilation of tons of stuff you've probably never heard, at least not in the form on this CD. It's a compilation of rare, hard to find, live, old recordings, and previously unreleased material. Propagandhi puts intelligent lyrics before music - but somehow create music equally as impressive as their brilliant socio/political lyrics dealing with subjects such as sexual orientation, racism, nationalism and government corruption. Formed in 1992, Propagandhi play uptempo, melodic, catchy punk rock energized by a true commitment to the music and the message. There aren't too many bands that can reel you in with great music and then teach you a thing or two - Propagandhi can.

Raised Fist • *Fuel* • **Burning Heart Records** • Sucked in to the pit of anger. Thrust forward, backwards with new fits of rage, audibly displayed through crunching guitars, ferocious drums, deep, pulsating bass and screamed vocals. The tempo-breaks instantly create a rhythm, ever changing, shifting, driving. These four Swedish men play heavy, hard, infuriated music infused with creativity, separating it from the other new school hardcore bands out there.

Research • *(Almost) Nothin Yet 12"* • **Stickshift Records** • Research combines pop charm with computer savvy. Female vocals (on 2 of 4 tracks) shimmer across programmed beats and sounds. Some of the mid-song changes in sound and/or tempo are strikingly good. This is a really good record to kick back and chill to - except for side B which is a long glorification of computer pro-

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Quickies

A little bit on a lot of records.

grammed sounds and samples. Side A is great, though, and makes up for it.

Road Rage • Nothin' to Declare • Radical Records • I did not like this the first time I listened to it. The second time I listened, I couldn't figure out what I didn't like about it. This is a good disc. Lots of kick-ass punk tunes like Fuck 'Em All Bar One and Bollox to Him. This is good stuff.

Roadsaw • Nationwide • MIA Records • This is some cool shit. Bass-heavy grooves set the tone for this killer disc from a bunch of Bean Town guys. This is what rock is all about. It's so good, we'll even forgive the bass player for wearing flip-flops on stage.

Shannon Wright • Flightsafety • Quarterstick Records • This new release features folksy pop/rock with unique female vocals. A great CD to chill back and listen to on a hazy summer night.

Shuggie • self-titled • Cargo Music • This is 90's rock with a 70's flair. If you are tired of the pop/alternative crap that the radio shoves down your throat and just want some straight up rock, then this is the cd that you need. It proves that rock is definitely not dead.

Sianspheric • There's always someplace you'd rather be • Sonic Unyon • After almost 2 minutes of sub-decibel feedback, the river of drums and guitars swells to high tide and the sensations of incoherence sought through the pipe and the needle are within earshot (rather than armshot). Dense layers of sonic splendor continue for another 66 minutes as my persistence for the Buddha begins to unravel. I'd tell you whether or not it was a good trip, if it was better than a gram of smack, but that doesn't seem much to the point here. Either you're inside the Sianspheric or you're not. They held me in the stream of distortion for the duration, and that's all you can ask of a musical drone.

Sick of It All • Call To Arms • Fat Wreck • Heck, if you're already a fan you already own this. If you've never heard Sick of It All, this is the one to start with. It's a bit more melodic hardcore than their prior releases without sacrificing any aggression. The production work here really impresses me. I'm a sucker for clean sound, thanks to Minor Threat and Judge. Gosh, Sick of It All has given over a decade to embracing hardcore, and this is perhaps their best disc yet!

Songs For Emma • 11.12.98 • Broken Rekids • Rock with a message that is commemorating one person and her beliefs. If you're into music that carries some weight with its lyrics then this CD is for you.

Sonic Joyride • Breathe • Anomaly Records • Don't let the first couple of tracks fool you. They start off with a bang of guitar-driven rock, but then they go on a long string of softer, sometimes acoustic stuff that doesn't work quite as well. If they had made 10 songs like the first two I'd be driving their bandwagon, but the disc kind of died out for me.

Spear of Destiny • Religion • Amsterdamned Records • I picked this CD from the pile because it looked like a metal disc and I was in the mood to bang some heads. However, it turned out to be another power pop offering. Spear of Destiny is heavier than most pop bands, and they sometimes get almost a grunge thing going on. It's not

bad but the singer's voice just didn't do it for me. Sounds like Ian Astbury with no range.

Stone Nowhere • Man • Thigke Richard Music • Can you say Blind Melon? Of course you can. These folks not only say it, they are it. This is kinda hippy type music that you might want to listen to if you liked hippy music, which nobody does so don't really bother.

Testify • Crack the Mind • Van Richter Records • Hard-core industrial metal at its best. Turn it up, its time for some serious head banging. Featuring five new tracks and four remixed tracks, this is intense at the least.

The Avengers • Died For Your Sins • Lookout! Records • If you are at all someone who considers themselves a punk rock fan or a music fan in general then the CD is a must. Classic old-school punk from the 70's - it doesn't get much better than this. It deserves a reserved spot next to the Ramones (yes it is that good).

The Boom • Any Day of the Night • Slowdime • Blending elements from Jazz, Blues, Ska, and Latin music, The Boom explodes from your speakers with the opening track "Pow Wow." The third track, "Shag," will keep all Medeski, Martin & Wood fans happy with its head-bobbing groove. "Sacrifices" has a double trumpet jam that borders on the experimental rather than on the traditional. All in all, Any Day of the Night is a great record that should satisfy fans of jazzy, instrumental music.

The Capitol City Dusters • Simplicity • Dischord Records • The three guys making up this rock outfit descended from the roots of Severin, The Delta '72, and Please. Now in their third year of existence, they're already on their third drummer. One per year isn't too bad. The music they have crafted is a driving force that will keep you tuned in from track one to eleven. It's rock and roll, baby, melodic, the way I like it. They may hail from DC, but they don't necessarily represent the "DC" sound. Originality is the name of their game. Emotional, intense, solid music is what they deliver.

The Chamber Strings • Gospel Morning • Bobsled Records • This bears the mark of the Beatles, in a less obvious but still apparent influence in the melodies. This release covers a lot of ground in popular music, and is a lot more upbeat than the pasty faced guy on the cover would have you believe. If you like Beatles influenced bands, check this out.

The Creatures • Anima Animus • Instinct Records • Siouxsie Sioux's new musical effort sans the Banshees. It's good- her voice fused with contemporary dance beats works well. At times I wonder if she's ever grown outside of the specific range for the twenty odd years she's been doing this, but whatever. Fans want what the fans get.

The Dinner Is Ruined Band • A Maggot in Their Heads • Sonic Unyon Records • A Maggot in Their Heads is the fifth release for these Canadian college radio favorites, who have opened for acts such as Sonic Youth, Beck, and Vic Chesnutt. The Dinner Is Ruined Band plays a driving, somewhat twisted, rock. Apparently the cold Canadian winters have warped these guys, and we're all the better for it.

The Dwarves • Free Cocaine • Recess Records • Though I really dug Lick It, this sounds like shit in comparison. It covers them from 1986 to 1988. Obviously they moved to a more punk rock sound. And well, punk rock was rather generic at this point in time. You can lead a healthy productive life if you aren't in the know of this CD.

The Dwarves • Lick It (The Psychedelic Years) • Recess Records • These recordings originate from 1983-1986. Heavy heavy garage rock of psychedelic lore. Really brilliant, I must say. Think the Cramps if you don't know the Dwarves. It's very abrasive, with massive distortion on the guitars and bass. Ahhh, it's love! Too bad 13 years had to pass before I was exposed to this. GET THIS!

The Gloria Record • self-titled • Crank! • Still bummed about the untimely passing of Mineral? The Gloria Record consists of former Mineral singer/guitarist Chris Simpson and bassist Jeremy Gomez with a new supporting cast. Their new cd ep features six songs of mellow emo/indie rock, which reveal the influence of 80's college rock darlings such as R.E.M. and the Cure.

The Hellcopters/Gluecifier • Respect The Rock USA • Man's Ruin • If there is anyone out there who has become disgruntled due to the fact that no exceptional rock bands have come out of the 90's, your disgruntled days are over. These 2 bands are straight up down and dirty rock'n'roll. Out of the 2 Hellcopters won out as my favorite, but then again anyone that can cover a Lynyrd Skynyrd song as good as these guys do gets my approval.

The Judas Factor • Ballads in Blue China • Revelation Records • This CD starts off with brutal riffs and raw edge vocals. Then mid-way through, it goes to soft indie rockish music and vocal stylings. Then back to the hard stuff, yet this whole CD has a different tone and sound than the chugga chugga of other folk's hardcore. The Judas Factor is a band you'll want to hear, with lyrics you need to read. You might find a personal anthem here.

The Lillingtons • Death By Television • Panic Button/Lookout • Billed by their label as the best thing since The Queers, these guys have a lot to live up to. Fortunately, they do it. This is good, melodic pop-punk that does indeed have that Queers, Ramones type of feel to it. Catchy riffs and cool-ass lyrics make this a definite must have.

The Lords of Algal • Disciple of the Mysteries • Medea Records • Death metal. Loud music, growling, screaming vocals. The music isn't speed-death metal, just death metal. In fact, I kind of like their music — they sound like Type O Negative. There are about three tracks on there that will make your head spin though. I'm not a big fan of death metal but this isn't bad.

The Mekons • I have been to Heaven... • Quarterstick Records • This is a retrospective of The Mekons, volume one of an intended multi-CD set. Not being familiar with this band, I was happy with the ordering of the tracks and political bent to the lyrics. The booklet comes with nice comments about each song and photos (and music) dating back to 1980. Despite some tracks being nearly two decades old, most of the songs don't bear the scarlet sonic letters of early progressive/college rock.

Quickies

A little bit on a lot of records.

The Metalunas • X-Minus-One • American Pop Project • This is surf music à la Man or Astroman? In fact, it's very similar, down to the space references. If you like them, I suggest you get this one. If you've never heard surf music, then you ought to.

The Neatbeats • Far and Near • Get Hip Recordings • Originating from Japan, the Neatbeats appropriate American pop music from an era where melody and harmonizing were king. I really dig it! They do some nice covers- Hi Heel Sneakers- and all the music is super catchy, guaranteed to get a smile on your face and head bopping along.

The New Grand • Incognito • Sonic Unyon Records • In case you haven't noticed, power pop is making a comeback. You may have also noticed that not many bands are doing it well. If you have noticed this, you'll be happy to know The New Grand is out there. This band plays great music and displays tight harmonies. They aren't as hard as Creeper Lagoon or Treble Charger, but they hold their own nicely.

The Saints • Everybody Knows the Monkey • Amsterdamm Records • This is pretty basic rock and roll. A little on the sappy side, at least musically, for my tastes. There are a few good tunes, but these guys have been playing since music was invented and each disc seems to be a devolution in ability.

The Streetwalkin Cheetahs • Live on KXLU • Triple X Records • Something that I have noticed lately is that discs recorded at college radio stations generally sound really good. This disc is a fine example of such discs. The Streetwalkin Cheetahs are a good band who play fast punk that is also good punk; always a good combination.

The Wedding Present • Singles 1989-1991 • Manifesto Records • This two-disc release compiles their first five BMG singles, including all b-sides, unreleased tracks, compilation tracks, and nine live recordings made in Leeds in 1990. Fronted by the wonderful David Gedge, TWP has been around since 1985. If, in those fourteen years, you haven't heard TWP before, you're missing out on some incredible British guitar-oriented pop rock. Gedge's vocals are awesome, not the same as fellow Brit Billy Bragg, but equally infectious. The music can go from hypnotic to aggressive, all the while holding on to melody. This is a must for all TWP lovers and those who

want to expand their horizons to include a classic British band that is still alive and kicking.

Three Finger Cowboy • Kissed • Daemon Records • Who ordered the Juliana Hatfield on rye? Your order's up! Katharine McElroy's voice is so similar to Hatfield's it's scary. Especially on Comin' Around. Not that it's a bad person to sound like. The band is OK but they need a little work. The next one could be big.

Three Mile Pilot • Songs From An Old Town We Once Knew • Cargo Music • This double CD collection is a dream come true for 3 Mile Pilot fans. Their unique, meandering indie rock sound drifts along incorporating creative arrangement and instrumentation while maintaining a grounded folk rock thread. There is more than an hour and a half of hard to find singles and unreleased tracks from various recording sessions - some studio, some homemade. It all comes together in an introspective and emotional outpouring of melodies and harmonies. Definitely worth the price of admission.

Throwaway Generation • Alive in the Streets of American Decay • Unity Squad Records • These guys all have great hair. I'm very jealous. They also, incidentally, play really good punk music. If you have a pulse, you will like this stuff.

Thrush Hermit • Clayton Park • Sonic Unyon • A little Weezer and a lot of rock. You will be jumpin' around and singing before the first song is over. Definitely worth buying and listening to over and over.

Tony Tidwell & the Scalded Dogs • Out of the Way • Ghostmeat Records • Pop/rock/Country - sometimes a dangerous combination but this time these guys pull it off perfectly.

Tricky Woo • The Enemy is Real • Sonic Unyon Records • Turn it up and let your hair down - its time to rock out. Loud and raw, exactly what the music of today needs.

Trip the Planet • Trance • Maelstrom Music • Trip the Planet is coming into their own. They've been around in the Western US for quite a few years but their particular style of grindcore/funk-metal had yet to gain popularity. Now it has and TTP are on the verge of stardom. They've got some real solid hooks and meaty riffs. If there's one shortcoming it's that lead singer Brett Soliday doesn't seem to know which style he wants to sing in. On the first song he goes for a deeper, guttural approach that doesn't work. When he really sings though, he's has the chops. Definitely worth a listen.

Urban Dance Squad • UDS Sampler • Triple X Records • You know their name. You know what they can do. This is a great disc for a nice variety of UDS. Most of us know them from the way cool "Deeper Shade of Soul," but songs like "Prayer For My Demo" and "Demagogue" show their range. Still one of the hippest, funkiest groups around. Bar none.

Bo Bud Greene • Las Olas • 4 Alarm Records • Oh, the abstractness of rock is such a hard thing to grasp, but these boys have figured out a way to present catchy, dandy tunes with a strange quirkiness. The vocals are often very matter-of-fact and the music is perfectly inconsistent in concept, but right on target in sound - keeping you on your toes with unexpected changes within songs and from song to song. This is rock and roll with an attitude - a fun one.

Various Artists • Asphodelic • Asphodel • Electronic music lovers rejoice! Asphodel has put together a great compilation of dance, hip hop, and ambient music from their roster which includes Mix Master Mike, DJ Spooky, Topsy, Rob Swift and the X-ecutioners. Pick this up, if for the two DJ Spooky and single Rob Swift tracks alone.

Various Artists • Forward Till Death • Lookout Records • Lookout Records' latest sampler features tunes from each of their 1998 releases, as well some previously unreleased material by bands such as Pansy Division, the Mr. T Experience, and Squirtgun. *Forward Till Death* is a great introduction for the uninitiated to Lookout's roster of pop punk acts.

Various Artists • Hot Curly Weenie - Vol.#2 • Recess Records • Raunchy loud punk sometimes bordering on being obnoxious - what more could you want from punk compilation album. Definitely worth listening to - several times. Bands include FYP, Quincy Punx and tons more.

Various Artists • Now We Are 5 • Sonic Unyon • Some adequate tracks here. Mooney Suzuki, The New Grand, The Dinner is Ruined, Chore, Danko Jones, all acceptable, non-offensive, Indie Rock. Smoother, with "Black," is far more impressive however. Instead of simply playing what sounds like indie-rock, they make independent music that rumbles with a sneer. Moments of cuteness, speed chords, Duncan Sheikness conclude the rest of tracks here. Yawn.

Various Artists • Of Things To Come • BYO Records • A compilation disc to destroy all other compilations... VooDoo Glowskulls, Anti-Flag, Hatebreed, Bouncing Souls, are you getting the picture yet? This is the best of the best in a disc that you will want in your collection unless you are stupid.

Various Artists • Old School VS New School • Jive Records • The Old School of Jive records doesn't sound all that old. Well, I suppose it's a question of how old "old school" has to be. In this case, Kool Moe Dee, A Tribe Called Quest and Boogie Down Productions are at least 10 years past "New," and the "New" in this case means Rabbit in the Moon, Grooverider, DJ Icey, the DJ's and Electronica artists of the Now. The CD works because each Remixer has an obvious love for the Old. Hang on to the oldies, history repeats itself in the eyes of school.

Various Artists • Post Marked Stamps • Tree Records • This is a compilation of emo/indie rock bands that participated in the Post Marked Stamps 7" series. The kids should be happy to hear tracks by Braid, the Get Up Kids, Compound Red and Giants Chair. Since finding the original 7"s is quite difficult, treat yourself to the CD if you're a fan of this style of music.

Various Artists • Ritalin Riot • ADD • Holy Mackerel! This is one swell compilation of pop

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Quickies

A little bit on a lot of records.

punk, punk, and hardcore music. And not just a compilation- there's fun intros to most of the tracks. Bands include Dillinger 4, Brand New Unit, Hankshaw, Big Wig, Discount, plus a multitude of others you've heard of but maybe never heard.

Various Artists • Serial Killer • Fearless Records • Boy! What a Comp! Twenty-eight tracks by standout bands like REO Speedealer, Blink 182, Bigwig, 30 Foot Fall, and 1-45 w/ Cult Ceavers giving us a pedal power song. I was skeptical about this one, but the music is aggressive and the tracks flow quite nicely together.

Various Artists • Spirit of '99 - A Hardcore Competition • Go! Team • I'm a big opponent of compilations - mostly because they end up having one good track and twenty crappy ones. Alas, a comp CD that breaks the mold, many more good tracks than bad. Some of the better bands featured include Pistis (pretty, sappy emo), Carlisle (emocore with dueling vocals, well-sung and screamed - sometimes the screamed vocals become overwhelming), Song of Kerman (politicore), Shyster (intricate, melodic indie/punk rock), Peterbuilt (emo ala Braid with more anger), Backhand (poppy emo ala Gameface), Kills Competition (speedcore). Also featured on this impressive album is a twelve-minute quicktime movie for your computer that satirizes the hardcore scene. Between the music and the movie, this is a great release.

Various Artists • Still Screaming - A New Noise/Hardcore Compilation • Burning Heart Records • Noise, indeed. This is really good hardcore. I'll admit that I had my reservations about it, but I really love this disc. 11 bands and 22 songs that are really good. These bands are definitely a bunch of dudes who can play. Included are Raised Fist, Refused, Within Reach and more.

Various Artists • Throwing Nickels: A CCR Tribute • Urinine Records • Four indie-rock bands covering Creedence Clearwater Revival?!! The dead Fogerty brother is probably rolling over in his grave (if he wasn't cremated). Anyway, this is a really cool disc. My only complaint is that it isn't longer. Where's "Proud Mary" and "Down on the Corner"? Hopefully there's a volume two in the works.

Water Closet • Time is Cool • Broken Rekids • These guys are Japanese. I caught on to that fact when I realized that I couldn't figure out what the hell they were saying. It's English; barely. It is also good. They have a chick singer with a gorgeous voice. The songs are good, the sound is good, the lyrics are strange - but you can't understand them so who cares?

We™ • Square Root of Negative One • Asphodel • This is some damn good American-Made Drum 'N Bass. Not all of it is at breakneck speed, though. Square root of negative navigates through tempo changes - fast, then slow in an almost ambient-like sound. Definitely recommended for the electronically inclined.

(Young) Pioneers • Free the (Young) Pioneers Now! • Lookout Records • This is the soundtrack for the Spring! First off- they remind me of Make Up in their channeling of the energies of R&B and vocals that might not fit elsewhere but with that respective band. (Young) Pioneers are more gruff and bass oriented with a steady groove to get you in the revolutionary mood. This is a great rock and roll record so you must march down and get it!

Seven inches

Alien Blood Transfusion • self-titled • Acme Records • Someone get these guys out of the garage and get them new instruments. Kidding aside, this is punk-garage rock with mediocre vocals. I'm not impressed - typical chord progressions to be considered punk and enough noise to be garage

Cease/Clairemel • split release • ADD Records • This 7" comes with issue #5 of ADD for \$5. The Clairemel side has two tracks that sound good in their emo-punk ways (not emo as the indie debasement of the word). Cease contribute a loud rocker that features talking and then the devil throat singing of lyrics. The song is a bit too long, but these evil core kids will torture you anyway possible. This 7" is not so bad when you consider a zine comes with it.

Cigaretteman/Discount • split release • Suburban Home • I never understood the draw of Discount but this re-release of a 1996 7" set me straight on their pop punk ways. Cigaretteman is amazing poppy stuff with female (and male) vocals. Pure beauty! Get this now! Makes me sad I missed it first time around.

Decay • Back in the House • Suburban Home • This is a decent hardcore release which begs the question- what'd they do to get kicked out of the house in the first place? Jokes aside, this 7" works as it should- a blast of hardcore rage to get your adrenaline going.

Donnas/Toilet Boys • split release • Lookout Records • One song by each band. The Toilet Boys contribute a cock-rocking track that's kind of a guilty pleasure. Hark back past the 80's metal scene, and you arrive at Donnas territory. They play 70's style garage rock with sweet lyrical simplicity. Heck, they're movie stars, too! The Donnas are the only reason to see "Jawbreaker."

Ghosts & Vodka • Memento Mori • Lookout Records • One song by each band. The Toilet Boys contribute a cock-rocking track that's kind of a guilty pleasure. Hark back past the 80's metal scene, and you arrive at Donnas territory. They play 70's style garage rock with sweet lyrical simplicity. Heck, they're movie stars, too! The Donnas are the only reason to see "Jawbreaker."

Les Savy Fav • Our Coastal Hymn • Desoto Records • Chew on this slab of indie rock and roll. It's rather delicious. There's a big punk attitude in the vocals and the music compliments it with deep basslines and sharp, noisy guitars that don't intrude on the solid melodies. The B-side is infectious.

Roads To Space Travel • Before, Before Now • Desoto Records • Travel down their road to guitar-driven rock and you'll find great melodies and tempo changes with a slight garage feel to it. Two songs, three guys and a future in outer space.

The Sea and Cake/John McEntire • split release • Hefty Records • The Sea and Cake, as usual, deliver a sweet, soft, melodic, graceful track. It flows like a river - combining underlying beats with soothing vocals and a pop appeal. John McEntire's track (he's in The Sea and Cake) is instrumental, trippy and comparable to the other side minus vocals.

The Zillionaires/Throwaway Generation • Major Disturbance • Unity Squad Records • The Zillionaires are beer influenced punk rockers. They're a bit sloppy and rather typical. TG are more solid and have better vocals than The Zillionaires, but it's along the same lines. If you're into aggressive, old style (maybe even Oi-ish) punk rock, this may be something you'd dig.

RECORD LABEL ADDRESSES

In alphabetical order. Please write them.

4 Alarm Records, 660 West Lake St., Chicago, IL 60661
404 Records, PO Box 827, Normal, IL 61761
ADD Records & Fanzine, 7309 N. Huntley Ave., Tampa, FL 33604
Alias Records, 2815 W. Olive Ave., Burbank, CA 91505
American Pop Project, PO Box 2271, San Rafael, CA 94912
Amsterdam Records, PO Box 862558, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2558
Anomaly Records, 145 Palisade Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
Artichoke Records, 1050-B Dolores, San Francisco, CA 94110
Asian Man Records, PO Box 35585, Monte Sereno, CA 95030-5585
Asphodel, PO Box 51, Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0051
Badoo Toonz Music, PO Box 232085, Anchorage, AK 99523-2085
Bar None Records, PO Box 1207, Hoboken, NJ 07030
Big Wheel Rec., 325 Huntington Ave. #24, Boston, MA 02115
Bobsled Records, PO Box 6407, Aurora, IL 60598
Broken Rekids, PO Box 460402, San Francisco, CA 94146-0402
Burning Heart Records, Box 441, 70148, Orebro, Sweden
BYO Records, PO Box 67A64 Los Angeles, CA 90067
Cargo Music, 4901-906 Morena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117-3432
Cavity Search Records, PO Box 42246, Portland, OR 97242
Crank!, 1223 Wilshire Blvd. #823, Santa Monica, CA 90403
Daemon Records, PO Box 1207, Decatur, GA 30031
Desoto Records, PO Box 60335, Washington D.C. 20039
Dill Records, PO Box 347388, San Francisco, CA 94134-7388
Dischord, 3819 Beecher Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007-1802
Drag City, PO Box 476867, Chicago, IL 60647
Empyrean Records, PO Box 536, Rockville, MD, 20848
Fat Wreck Chords, PO Box 193690, San Francisco, CA 94119-3690
Fearless Records, 13772 Goldenwest St., #545, Westminster, CA 92683
G-7, Box 3-905 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3M-3S3, CANADA
Get Hip, PO Box 666, Canonsburg, PA 15317
Ghostmeat Records, PO Box 54693, Atlanta, GA 30308
Go Team!, PO Box 3491, Winter Park, FL 32790-3491
Hefty Records, 1658 N. Milwaukee, Suite 287, Chicago, IL 60647
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I Scream Records, Broekstraat 10, 1730 Kobbegem, Belgium
Instinct Records, 26 W. 17th St. #502, NY, NY 10011
Jive/Zomba, 137-139 W 25th St., NY, NY 10001
Kranky, PO Box 578743, Chicago, IL 60657
Lil' Joe Records, 6157 NW 167th St., Suite F-17, Miami, FL 33015
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Lookout! Records, PO Box 11374, Berkeley, CA 94712-2374
Maelstrom Music, 1540 N. Formosa #10, Los Angeles, CA 90046
Manifesto, 740 North La Brea Ave., 2nd Fl., LA, CA 90038-3339
Man's Ruin, 610 22nd Street #302, San Francisco, CA 94107
Medea Records, PO Box 99055, Troy, MI 48099-9055
MIA Records, 315 Church St., New York, NY 10013
Minty Fresh, PO Box 577400, Chicago, IL 60657
Ng Records, 61 Van Dam Street, 2nd Fl., NY, NY 10013
Nitro Records, 7071 Warner Ave. F-736, Huntington Beach, CA 92647
Panic Button, PO Box 148010, Chicago, IL 60614-8010
Quarterstick Records, PO Box 25342, Chicago IL 60625
Radical Records, 77 Bleecker St. #C2-2, New York, NY 10012
Real Deal, 74 Orchard St., NY, NY 10002
Recess Records, PO Box 1112, Torrance, CA 90505
Relapse Records, PO Box 251, Millersville, PA 17551
Revelation Records, PO Box 5232, Huntington Beach, CA 92615-5232
Sidekicks Records, Ostra Nobelgatan 9, 703 61 Örebro, Sweden
Sin Klub Entertainment, PO Box 2507, Toledo, OH 43606
Slowtime, PO Box 414, Arlington, VA 22210
Sonic Unyon, PO Box 57347, Jackson Station, Hamilton, ON, L8P4X2
Stickshift Records, PO Box 41246, Memphis, TN 39174
Suburban Home, 1750 30th St. #365, Boulder, CO 80301
Sugar Free Records, PO Box 14166, Chicago, IL 60614
Thigke Richard Music, 4527 Minnehaha Ave. S. MPLS, MN 55406
Tommy Boy, 902 Broadway, 13th Floor, NY, NY 10010
Touch and Go, POB. 25520 Chicago, IL 60613
Tree Records, PO Box 578582, Chicago, IL 60657
Triple X, PO Box 862529, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2529
Unity Squad, 354 W. 100 North, Logan, UT, 84321
Urinine Records, 6808 Madison Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46227
Van Richter, 100 South Sunrise Way, Ste. 219, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Will Records, 1122 E. Pike St. #511, Seattle, WA 98122

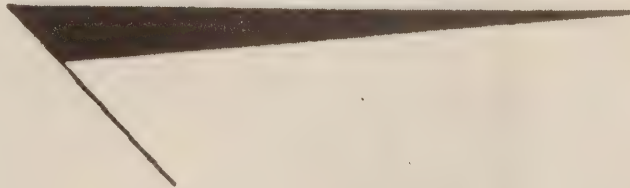
MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 27th - 31st I-4 30 Miles West of Orlando (Fantasy of Flight)

You are invited to visit the Moving Wall 'VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL'. The 380' black wall is engraved with the names of 58,215 men and women who were killed and 2,331 names of those listed as Prisoners Of War and Missing In Action that were abandoned by the US government in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War ended.

The Wall is a solemn reminder that this nation must never again send it's young people to die in a war that the country does not understand or want. This sad chapter in the history of our country will always remind us of the dark politics of Vietnam and the loss of so many who served without asking why. The Wall is not to glorify the war but, to reflect and remember those who were sent to a far away land to fight an unpopular war.

Regardless of your feelings about the Vietnam War, the Moving Wall is about healing and education in the hopes that there will never need to be another wall for another useless war.



Michael Moore Book Contest Entry Form Comments

below are some of the responses to the question, "What do you like and dislike about IMPACT?"

LIKES

- Info boxes
- Smart, open-minded journalism
- More than music
- Noam Chomsky-like thought
- IMPACT usually deals with real societal occurrences that really do have an impact.
- Politics that make sense
- It's free!
- Views not expressed in mainstream press
- Variety of articles, viewpoints
- Loudmouth Productions ads
- You keep getting better
- Alternative outlook
- Asalamalakim Barnes
- Notes from the Cultural Wasteland

DISLIKES

- Barnes' Mind Power
- Bi-mothly, too long to wait
- Generalizations
- Quickies
- Length of some editorials
- Dec/Jan "What Would Jesus Do?" article
- Can't determine paper's editorial stand
- Too few graphics
- No nude pictures
- Makes my fingers dirty
- IMPACT needs to advertise more jazz related music vs. all the rock
- Lack of book reviews
- The awful reality, in large doses, gets really depressing after awhile

winners of the contest should receive their book by April 30th. if you want to know if you won, feel free to email impact - see page 4.

The Waiting Room by Lisa Loomer



directed by
Morris Sullivan and Mychele Boardman

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The Facts: April 30th through May 22nd, with performances at 8:00 PM on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and at 2:30 PM on Sunday, May 16th. Admission to regular performances on Fridays and Saturdays is \$12 general, \$10 students and seniors. Admission on Thursdays and Sunday is \$9.

Growing into an Activist

(ACTIVIST, continued from page 8)

dren, dismembered bodies, and burning villages. It's much harder to get too worked up over a shot of an urban toxic waste dump, a rain forest replaced by a cattle ranch, a kid relegated to a career in the fast-food industry, or a cancer cell.

My point is, there are still plenty of things to get active about, and there are plenty of forums, like *Impact*, that publish out-of-the-mainstream information. While you may not find a protest march to join very often, there are plenty of good ways to get involved in building a better world for yourself and your children. Most are less romantic than standing in an on-campus protest line and greeting the national guard with a bouquet of carnations. Many are probably a hell of a lot more productive, too.

You can man a food line at a homeless shelter, for instance. Volunteer at the service organization of your choice—be it a struggling arts group, an AIDS support group, or one of the organizations that hike or canoe through natural areas picking up other people's trash. There are thousands of opportunities like this.


So, I was a fat, geeky thirteen-year-old when I picked up my first copy of the "Catalyst." It probably changed my life—certainly much more than that peach daiquiri did, or even the mint julep. I was still a fat, geeky thirteen-year-old, but now I knew what I was going to do with myself—although, to tell the truth, I didn't consciously know I knew it. I still thought I was going to be the fifth Beatle when I grew up.

On some level, however, I must have known. I must have realized that, at some point thirty years or so hence, I would have set aside the BMW, the pinstripe suit, and the business trips to Atlanta in favor of sitting at a keyboard and writing about activism. I must have known that, sooner or later, I'd shift my focus away from being a capitalist and toward being a catalyst.

I think so, anyway. It's the only way I can explain carrying the damn things around in a box for 30 years.

IMPACT press #20 - April/May '99

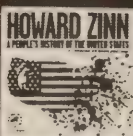
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LEGO® my Mouse!

by Susan Sterling

IS NOTHING SACRED?

I love my computer, and to be perfectly honest, a decade ago when I got the first one, it was for my child, for the betterment of her education. Of course we learned together...me towards the technical aspects and she the fun stuff.

Over time we both learned to blend the two so that it could be all it could be, the ultimate partner, teacher and toy.

We were first awe-struck by 'cut and paste'. No more retyping papers, no more rubbed fingers from pounding away on the Royal, no more bottles of white out, no more wadding of papers in disgust after finding an unfixable error. We, the commoner, could italicize! There was a world outside of pica and elite, there were fonts. We were free to change our minds!

We played Solitaire as if obsessed, yet my fingers often craved the feel of the cards, the resounding slap as I lay Jack on Queen and uncovered that elusive two of spades.

The games were amusing, even those played through DOS on that old 286. The jerky figures, the mouths moving in identical rhythmic motion as words bled across the screen, the garbled noise, the crashing of the system, it was all part of the fun.

Multimedia opened up a whole new world as everything came to life with a blaze of color, movement, sound, and bigger crashes. Someone invented a Solitaire game that allowed you to cheat, to play black on black if need be. We raced cars, but it really wasn't the same as that old Atari with the steering wheel. No computer game can rival the original Pacman as you whipped that joy-stick about in your quest to eat the dots and dodge the bad guys.

Ah, but you 'Doomed' and you 'Mysted' and you 'Tomb Raided', and your eyes grew weary and your butt grew large. But it was a computer, you weren't parked in front of the television. It was as if it was somehow more educational to vegetate there in front of a monitor as opposed to a picture tube.

E-mail chased the written letter to the 'remember whens'...no more flowered stationery, scented letters, thoughtful choosing of just the right stamp to affix. We were mollified by the notion that this meant more time to write more things to more people. I don't know about you, but I'm always behind on my e-mail!

Oh, lest we forget sweet mystery of the internet love...giggling huddled away as you exchange sweet emoticons of love half-way across the continent or world. Far far easier than meeting someone in a bar, and you don't have to shave your legs.

As if all that isn't enough, you can now watch TV on your computer or compute on your TV. You can play your Stardust CD on the computer while the stereo stores dust. Your computer can

wake you up, tell you when to go to bed, turn on your coffeepot...progress...harmless not in excess.

I think back now, to the advent of the personal calculator. Gone quickly were the note pads and chewed pencils as this wizard made your mathematical life oh so easy. It wasn't long before the naysayers predicted we'd be raising a generation of children who didn't know how to cipher. These naysayers used their calculators to graph and chart the demise of the human mind as it no longer needed to think.

With the computer came the word processor, the ultimate tool of the writer. But because it was progress, because it was housed within this miracle box, the naysayers were silent. We no longer need to spell, to use proper grammar, or to punctuate. We are but a mouse click away from all of the above.

The internet brought the world to our young minds, the world of knowledge, the world of plagiarism. The naysayers who clucked their tongues at Cliff Notes in the world of literature have turned a blind eye to the cut and paste world of 'borrowing' someone else's term paper from across the globe.

Computer software was developed in the form of games to allow kids to learn the fun way. I'm still scratching my head about why exactly it is that they can't learn the way I did, the old fashioned way, perhaps the right way.

Computer software was developed to teach students to pass the SAT...it used to be that

what you learned IN school prepared you for the college entrance exams, rather than a logical assessment of how to beat the odds.

I love my computer and cannot fathom my life without it. When a storm brews and the power goes down, it's not the heat, it's not the lights I miss...it's my computer.

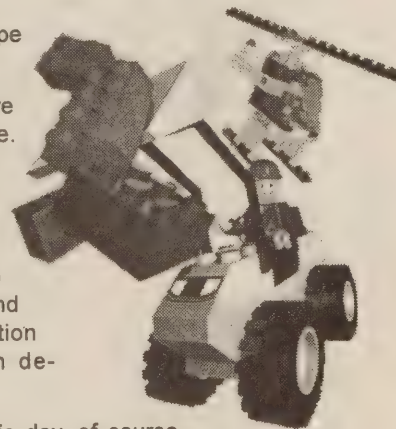
However, have we crossed a line from when the computer was a healthy teaching tool into the ever growing lair of dependency? Are we so gradually becoming the mindless beings the naysayers predicted, yet oblivious to it in our little world made easier by computers?

Is the easy way necessarily the best way? When did we erase that fine line? Have we become so dependent on the computers that we can no longer see the line?

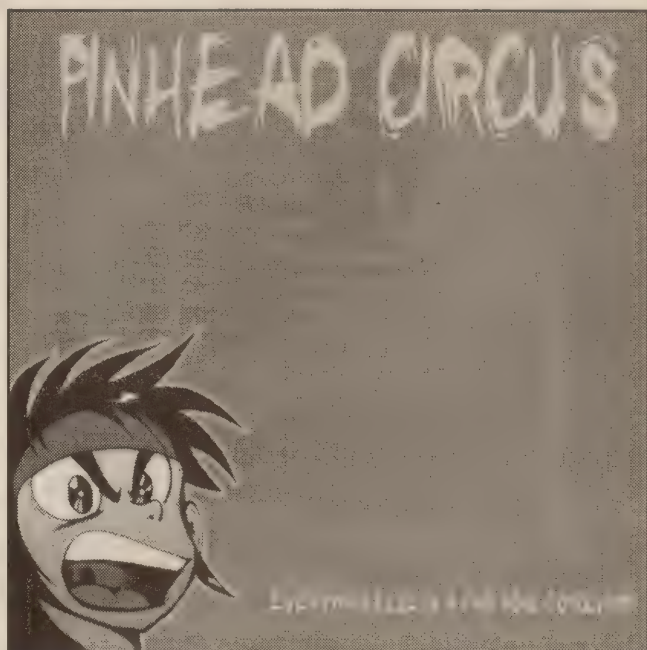
Today I realized the scope of this plague.

I put my foot down. We've gone too far this time. Somewhere out there, in that great and growing herd of pencil-neck geeks, is a computer programmer who needs to be tarred and feathered. Did I mention shot? Did I mention deported?

I speak so harshly this day, of course,



(LEGOS, continued on page 39)



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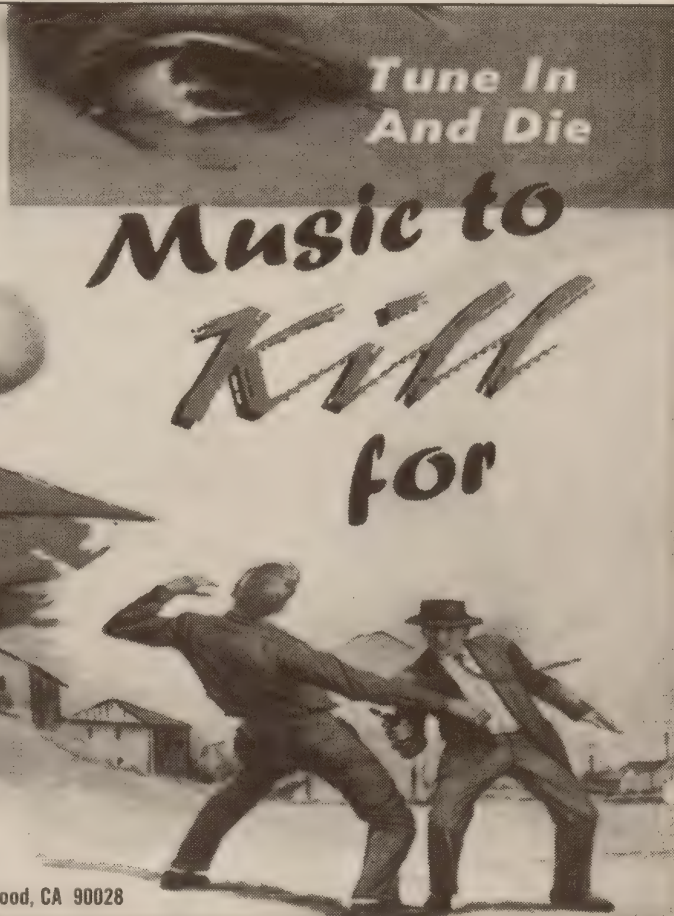
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School is a training ground for killers

(SCHOOL, continued from page 21)

port cited for human rights abuses were SOA graduates. The Commission also found that 10 of 12 officers responsible for the El Mozote massacre of 900 villagers were graduates of the School. The sole survivor of the atrocity, who watched in hiding as her four children were bayoneted to death by government forces, said, "Please, don't give us any more of this military aid. It would be better to help the poor."

According to several human rights groups, over 100 Colombian officers cited for abuses were SOA graduates. In 1985, SOA graduate General Rafael Samudio Molina led the massacre at the Colombian Palace of Justice, according to a report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Three years later, he was inducted into the SOA Hall of Fame.

Guatemala has suffered from murder, torture, and other atrocities committed by SOA graduates as much as any Latin American nation. After 1954, when a US-sponsored coup overthrew the democratically elected government and replaced it with a military dictatorship, over 200,000 people were killed or disappeared. The paramilitary Civil Patrols death squads and Guatemala's terrifying military intelligence agency, G2, were also led by SOA graduates. Since the conclusion of the Civil War, a 1998 human rights report by the Guatemala Archdiocese Human Rights Office and a 1999 report by the Guatemala Truth Commission linked SOA graduates to genocide against civilians.

Nicaraguan dictator Anastacio Somoza, never a popular man, used the School's services to train over 4,000 members of his National Guard, soldiers who later became the US-supported Contra army. After the triumph of the popular Sandinista revolution, the Contras continued the fighting, kidnapping, raping, mutilating, and murdering countless civilians, while also bombing the hospitals the new government had created.

The 1992 murder of nine students and their professor at La Cantuta University in Peru involved at least six officers trained at the School of the Americas. Two lieutenants cited for the 1985 Accomarca massacre of 69 peasants also graduated from the School.

In Honduras, at least 19 officers of the feared Battalion 3-16 death squads were graduates of the School. Four of five of the officers who formed Battalion 3-16 were also graduates.

Chilean General Ernesto Baeza Michaelson, another SOA graduate, led the CIA-sponsored coup that overthrew democratically elected President Salvador Allende and installed ultra-rightist dictator Augusto Pinochet.

More prominent murders committed by SOA graduates include the assassination of Archbishop Romero and the murders of two union leaders in El Salvador. Other incidents include the murders of two US citizens by SOA graduates in Guatemala, and the execution of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter, by 26 Salvadoran officers, 19 of whom were SOA graduates.

These atrocities are only the beginning of a long list of crimes committed by graduates of the School of the Americas. Evidence against the School's graduates destroys the US military's argument that the School has only produced a few bad apples. Charles T. Call, who investigated the School, said, "Even more distressing, I found that the United States continues to invite soldiers accused of gross human rights violations to the school." The military estab-

lishment also defends itself with the argument that it is not responsible for the fact that its graduates commit atrocities. Of course, if the School's students really did start out as horribly as they ended up, one wonders why the US army is training them.

SCHOOL OF DICTATORS

"The U.S. Army School of the Americas...is a school that has run more dictators than any other school in the history of the world," said Congressman Joseph Kennedy. In total, the School has produced at least twelve Latin American dictators.

Probably the most famous of the dictators educated at the School of the Americas was Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega. Noriega ruled as military dictator from 1983 to 1989, when he was overthrown by a US invasion and sentenced to 40 years in prison for drug smuggling. Before Noriega, SOA graduate General Omar Torrijos had used the National Guard to overthrow Panama's elected government in 1968, ruling oppressively until 1981.

In Ecuador, SOA graduate Major General Guillermo Rodriguez overthrew the elected government and became the military dictator.

In Peru, Major General Juan Velasco, another graduate of the School, did the same thing.

Lieutenant General Roberto Viola, also a graduate, led a military government in Argentina in 1981. He was succeeded by a fellow graduate, Lieutenant General Leopoldo Galtieri. During this period, the two men were responsible for Argentina's "Dirty Little War" that killed 30,000 people in an often barbaric manner.

Bolivian General and SOA graduate Hugo Banzer Suarez led a bloody coup in 1971. Despite murdering labor leaders and opposition politicians and sheltering a Nazi war criminal, he was honored as a member of the SOA Hall of Fame in 1988. Later, the Bolivian military appointed SOA graduate Major General Guido Vildoso to serve as military dictator.

In 1975, Brigadier General Juan Melgar Castro, yet another SOA graduate, became the military dictator of Honduras. From 1980-1982 the dictatorial Honduran regime was headed by Policarpo Paz Garcia, who intensified repression and murder by Battalion 3-16.

José Efraín Montt, a graduate of the School, served as dictator of Guatemala. During his rule, 2,600 peasants and Indians were massacred in a few months, according to an Amnesty International report.

Most recently, the elected Aristide government of Haiti was overthrown by General Raoul Cédras, who attended the School, though the military establishment denies he is a graduate.

SHUTTING DOWN THE SCHOOL

Unending violence, repression, and suffering in Latin America caused by graduates of the School of the Americas have raised concerns about the School. The School of the Americas Watch has struggled sincerely against the School, though Congress and the mainstream media's devotion to the cause is questionable.

In 1998, Congressman Joseph Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) introduced a bill to shut down the School because of the heinous acts perpetrated by its graduates. Supporters of the School defeated the bill 212-201, but Congressman Moakley is trying to close the School again in 1999. Unfortunately, the solution proposed by

these politicians does not even begin to deal with any of the problems the School of the Americas creates or symbolizes. "Closing the United States Army School of the Americas would not prevent the United States from providing appropriate training for military personnel of Latin American armed forces," says the 1999 bill. The current legislation to close the School of the Americas is well meaning, but alone it is useless, hypocritical, and self-contradictory.

Mainstream media attention has finally been granted to the School in a series of editorials across newspapers nationwide. The New York Times editorialized that "the school does little to advance American interests and should be closed down." The Times' remarks miss the point. That millions of people have suffered human rights abuses should be enough to convince one that "American interests" are not worth advancing. Unfortunately, the point is not made, and this is the fundamental barrier to ending the repression the School represents.

The School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) is a non-profit organization that has been working to close the School, with its leaders often landing in jail as a result. The group has documented that at least 1 in 100 graduates has returned to his home country "not to promote democracy, but to

rape, kill, torture, and participate in massacres."

In 1999, the SOAW will hold its 10th annual protest rally at Fort Benning. At the protest in 1998, 7,000 people attended and 2,319 peacefully trespassed onto the School's property. A total of nearly 1,000,000 signatures on petitions demanded that the School of the Americas be closed.

CONCLUSIONS

With its Latin American empire threatened, the United States made a conscious choice: "Hitherto accepted norms of human conduct do not apply." A decision between the legitimate desires of the people of Latin America and the wealth of the United States was inevitable, but choosing the latter at such tremendous cost was not. Preserving Latin America's abusive socioeconomic structure probably could not have been accomplished without such institutions as the School of the Americas. These establishments have prolonged the suffering created by the enormous inequality that continues to plague the region, and threaten today what few improvements have been achieved. Closing the School of the Americas is not enough. The School, and the entire barbaric foreign policy agenda of which it is part, must be destroyed.

Computerized Legos® must go

(LEGOS, continued from page 36)

about the person who invented the computer Legos®.

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hood. My God, will Lincoln Logs® be next??? Do we not feel guilt for the Lego® makers who will be laid off from work? Do we not feel badly that we're creating an economic rift in the world of plastic?

Sure, forget hopscotch, and simon says, and marbles. Tag and hide and go seek were long ago replaced by Nintendo. We can forget we've created a juvenile race of couch potatoes, we can chalk it all up to 'learning'.

And sure, lazy parents don't have to pick up the computer Legos® off the kitchen floor, but will they be the same parents who wonder why their little Tommy is tubby? And there are those who will argue that it's the 'programming' part that will 'TEACH' the rugrats.

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—Jack Kerouac, 1955, *On the Road*



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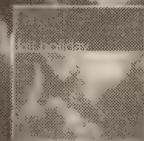
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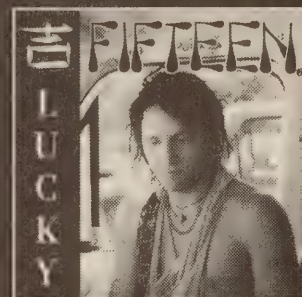
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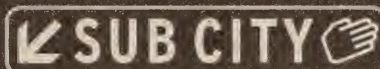


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Warning Signs of P.I.S.D

by **Chris Sumberg**

art by Marty Kelley

Pre-Indigence Stress Disorder (PISD) is a virulent disease believed to have claimed 15 million minds in the United States alone. In response to this silent war of mental attrition, the National PISD Task Force has been formed. Its role: to educate and counsel the public. With this in, or out, of mind, please take five minutes to study the "PISD Self-Check-Up Checklist" below.

Pre-Indigence Stress Disorder is signaled by a number of unique symptoms. If you exhibit one or more of the following behaviors, please contact the National PISD Hotline (1-555-IAM-PISD) **IMMEDIATELY**.

PISD Warning Signs: Self-Check-Up Checklist

- You salivate during Whiskas™ commercials.
- You consider Goodwill "a splurge."
- You buy rice on credit.
- You sell plasma in half-pints.
- You practice sleeping in your car.
- You envy migrant workers. (Free apples!)
- You're often asked if you know Sally Struthers.
- You make mental casseroles when walking past dumpsters.
- You comparison shop pinto beans.
- You heat your apartment with your own sweat waves.
- Your crying drowns out your next-door-neighbor's dog.
- You have scurvy.
- You suffer flashing pains in your hair.
- Your fantasies have shifted from orgies to buffets.
- You substitute for fish in your diet by standing on your head.
- You find a quarter at the laundromat—and are *born again!*
- You chew at your dog's wicker basket.
- You chew at your dog.
- You convince yourself that water is a food group.
- You lie on the floor for months at a time, strings of yellow drool hanging from your mouth.
- You are shrinking at the same rate as your grandmother.
- You have lost so much weight that you can chase a mouse into his hole and steal his cheese.
- You no longer sleep at night—however, you *do* hallucinate throughout the day.
- Indigents greet you with thumbs up and your first name.
- Stray dogs look at you, then turn away.
- The ringing in your ears resembles dinner bells.
- You realize: if you'd been living like this for the past ten years, you could have retired by now.





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Republican rhetoric is message of hatred

(REPUBLICAN, continued from page 9)

right-winger type saying the word "faggot". If you happen to be pro-gay rights, you are a "faggot". If you disapprove of their homophobic views, you are a "faggot".

If a chat room participant reveals that they are an ethnic or racial minority, the right-wingers start their racist rhetoric.

As this goes on, none of the "normal" conservatives tell their brethren to cool it. Yet and still, when something negative like GOP=Grand Old Pricks gets mentioned by a liberal, the "normal" conservatives start squawking about name-calling. Do I smell hypocrisy? Why jump on the name calling liberals but not the name-calling right-wingers?

One conservative in the chat room said I was being rather harsh when I said the GOP=Nazis. I don't think so because I believe the GOP behaves the same way the Nazis did. Just like the Nazis, the GOP used bigotry to get in power.

Reagan did it when he lied about an inner-city welfare mom living the high life, perpetuating the myth that most welfare recipients were lazy black folks. Jesse Helms did it in a campaign commercial. In the commercial, a qualified white lost a job opportunity due to affirmative action. This was perpetuating the myth that qualified whites were losing jobs to unqualified minorities.

Now, when a person uses racist propaganda, how can they be

so surprised when they find out that racists support them? Wouldn't anti-affirmative action rhetoric sound like beautiful music to a bigot that wants to preserve white supremacy? These bigots don't want minorities to get the same privileges they have been receiving for years. Doesn't the average bigot think of black folks as lazy and living off welfare? Republicans aren't surprised because they knew what they were doing in the first place, catering to bigots.

During the 1992 Presidential Race, then-President George Bush and other Republicans kept saying Christian family values as if anyone that was not a Christian was the enemy. They were culprits of Society's ills. Is it me or does this sound like something that could fuel the minds of those that are...anti-Semitic?


Luckily, Bush lost that year.

The Republican bigoted propaganda is almost no different than what Hitler did to scare a whole country about Jews. The only difference is most Republican propaganda is more subliminal than Hitler's.

Hitler's rhetoric was more out-spoken. Just like Alan Dershowitz pointed out, Republicans use code words like "real America."

So, the next time conservatives start an anti-liberal rant, I would advise them to look in their own political backyard. Why are some of your friends hanging around fascist and racist organizations?

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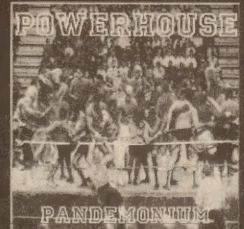


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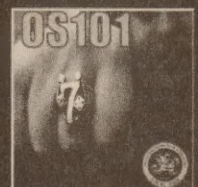
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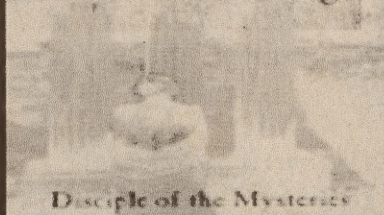


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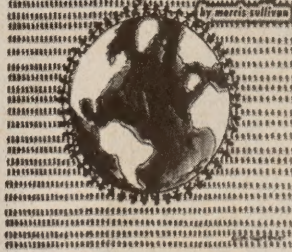
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issue #19

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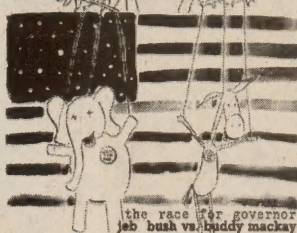
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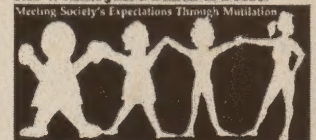
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Trickle-Down Liberalism and its Liberal Discontents

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